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**FRIDAY JUNE 14, 2019** 

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# 'MVA situation very dire'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

he Marianas Visitors Authority owes its offshore offices about \$1.7 million, as the Department of Finance has yet to remit

>> MVA in arrears of \$1.7M as Finance owes \$4M

> **RELATED NEWS** ➤ MVA lifeblood.

> > **PAGE 14**

\$4 million in hotel occupancy tax to the MVA, according to MVA vice chair Gloria Cavanagh.

In an interview, Cavanagh said that Finance has remitted to MVA about \$250,000 for this month,

but this is only a partial of the hotel occupan-

cy tax collection for December 2018. "It's very difficult. We don't have that luxury anymore as far as pro-

Cavanagh

moting the destination," she said during a recess in Wednesday's MVA board meeting. Due to this non-remittance of

funds, there are so many things, including different request for proposals, that are being compromised,

See MVA on Page 4

## Commercial ops at Rota East Dock stopped

By ERWIN ENCINARES erwin encinares@saipantribune.com

REPORTER

Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig yesterday announced, through the Rota Mayor's Office social media page,

that he is stopping commercial operations at the island's East Dock and reverting it back to the West Dock.

The statement noted that Atalig held a roundtable discussions with

See DOCK on Page 4



#### **NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

Senate members pose with Irene Holl, fifth left, Rick Kautz, 10th left, and Corinne Santos, eight left, after their confirmation as members of separate boards. Holl and Kautz will serve as trustees of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute, while Santos will represent Tinian on the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. board.

JON PEREZ

Story on Page 3

## Murkowski's aid sought on HR 559

**By JON PEREZ** 

Citing the bill's extreme urgency, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has asked U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) to help shepherd a CNMI-specific Murkowski



bill through the U.S. Senate. "I write to request your

assistance and support of the recently passed bill, the Northern Mariana Islands Long-Term Legal Residents Relief Act (H.R. 559), which was received in the

See HR 559 on Page 4

## Veteran laid to rest with military honors

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The late Paul Freeman Lee was laid to rest yesterday at the Veteran's Cemetery in Marpi with full military nonors.

His funeral was the result of a

collaboration between the Veteran's Affairs Office under the CNMI Office of the Governor and the U.S Naval Forces in Guam.

Lee was a retired officer in the U.S. Naval Forces.

See VETERAN on Page 4

#### INSIDE



#### LOCAL

Brabu Pharmacv is celebrating 10 years of being a partner of the community this month.

**PAGE 10** 



#### **NATION**

Justice has been elusive on American bases when the children sexually assault each other.

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#### LIFE & STYLE

The "Men in Black" has a new recruit who isn't a man but Tessa Thompson is fine with that.

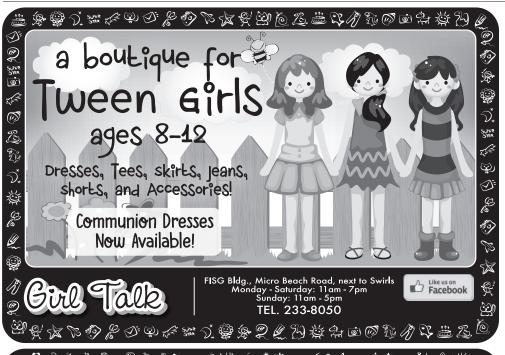
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**2** FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE





## Local

## 75th anniversary commemoration

World War II Memorial will host a Battle of Saipan 75th An-

The Friends of the National niversary Commemoration at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Saturday,



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June 15, starting at 11:30am.

The ceremony and wreath presentation at the Memorial's Pacific Arch will commemorate 75 years since the battle, which is referred to as "D-Day Pacific" due to its important strategic impact on the Pacific War.

Among those who will be present at the commemoration are World War II veteran Harry Miller; Douglas Domenech, assistant secretary Insular and International Affairs of the U.S. Department of the Interior; Jan Scruggs, founder of the Vietnam Veterans; Molly Pomroy, whose late father, Sgt. Thomas J. Quirk, served in the Battle of Saipan; Javier Abril, whose maternal grandfather, James W. Gabisch, served in the Battle of Saipan; Chaplain CDR Garry R. Thornton, Jr., USN; and Master Gunnery Sgt. Matt Harding of the U.S. Marine Band.

Family members of veterans who served in the Battle of Saipan, a representative of the Mariana Islands from the Department of the Interior, and representatives from the Military District of Washington will lay wreaths at the National World War II Memorial in honor of the 71,000 U.S. Marines and soldiers who landed on the island and to remember the nearly 3,500 killed and more than 10,000 wounded. (PR)



## Senate confirms 3 board nominees

By JON PEREZ

jon\_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The Senate confirmed three of board nominees in their session yesterday on Capital Hill.

Those confirmed were Irene N. Holl and Richard P. Kautz Jr., a re-appointee, of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute board of trustees, and Corrine H. Santos as Tinian representative on Commonwealth Health Care Corp. board.

Santos will be the third member of the CHCC board, joining chair Lauri Ogumoro and Saipan representative Polly Masga. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres still needs to appoint one more representative from Saipan and one from Rota.

NMTI chief executive officer Agnes M. McPhetres, who spoke in support of the two nominees, said that she has worked with Holl as a fellow member of the Rotary Club of Saipan. "[Her] experience in the private sector adds tremendous value to her qualifications," she said.

McPhetres said Kautz impressed the NMTI leader-

ship since he began serving as a member of the NMTI board in 2014.

"[He] has impressed me with his high ethical standards and resourcefulness in finding solutions to complex matters at the institute, most especially matters requiring the support of key stakeholders."

"He even speaks out on the golf course regarding the crucial role that NMTI plays in the improvement of the CNMI economy," she added. "He brings to the board the knowledge and skills required for NMTI to become the career and technical training center for addressing the overall manpower needs within the community, the government, and private businesses."

The Senate, with eight members present, unanimously voted on the confirmation of Kautz. Seven voted for Holl, with Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) voting no, while Corrine Santos also had seven senators favoring her, with Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) abstaining due to conflict of interest.



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## Comments sought on plan to lay cable through Marianas trench

**HONOLULU, Hawaii**—RTI Solutions Inc. has requested a right-of-way permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to install a submarine fiber optic telecommunications cable connecting Japan, Guam, and Aus-

Rota's private sector com-

munity last June 11, where he

announced the move to stop

commercial operations at the

East Dock of Rota and resume

dock operations at the island's

The statement did not

clarify when the commercial

operations are to stop at the

"...In the absence of [a]

state of emergency or a threat

to [the] life, security, and well-

being of the good people of

Rota, operations for commer-

cial activities must continue to

operate in unison with CNMI

Law," Atalig's office state-

It cited CNMI law, through

Public Law 18-33, that the

East Dock of Rota is constitu-

tionally identified as a sports

and recreational area for the

island, meaning only smaller

boats may use the East Harbor, while the West Harbor is

the only seaport that is consti-

tutionally identified for com-

story, it quoted Common-

wealth Ports Authority board

In an earlier Saipan Tribune

mercial operation.

DOCK

From Page 1

West Dock.

East Dock.

ment noted.

tralia that would pass through the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument

The cable, proposed to be laid directly on the seabed through the marine monument, would provide telecom-

member and Rota representa-

tive Barrie Toves as saying

that the West Dock of Rota had

to be temporarily shut down to

undergo repairs last Novem-

ber 2018, forcing Atalig to de-

clare a state of emergency and

move commercial operations

munications interconnectivity between Guam and Australia.

The USFWS is seeking public review and comment on the draft Environmental Assessment that evaluates the effects of issuing a right-of-

However, commercial op-

"The East Harbor on Rota is

erations are now being moved

not recognized as a designated

port of entry or exit," Toves

explained to Saipan Tribune.

back to the West Harbor.

to the East Dock.

way permit for the proposed cable through the monument. The EA will be available for public comment from June 12 to July 12.

The Marianas Trench Marine National Monument is

"On Rota, the only seaport designated as a port of entry is

Toves added that Rota only has three ports of possible entry—the airport, the west and east harbors, and the post office.

merged lands and some of the waters of the Mariana Archipelago within three designated units. The trench unit and the volcanic unit are managed as units of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The CNMI the West Harbor." maintains all authority for managing the three islands within the islands unit.

> Presidential Proclamation 8335 established the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument in January 2009 and assigned management responsibility to the Secretary of the Interior in coordination with the Secretary of Commerce. The Interior Secretary placed the trench and volcanic units within the National Wildlife Refuge System as the Mariana Trench and Mariana Arc of Fire National Wildlife Refuges and further delegated the management responsibility to the Service.

approximately 95,216 square

miles (roughly the size of

Oregon) and consists of sub-

The Service is evaluating the proposed telecommunications cable through the monument in consultation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Department of Defense to ensure resource protection ob-

U.S. Senate on June 4, 2019,"

said Torres in his letter to

"Since the December 2018

decision of the U.S. Depart-

ment of Homeland Security

to terminate the parole sta-

tus of a number of long-term

foreign residents present in

the CNMI, these 1,038 indi-

viduals in the terminated cat-

egories have been in a state

of uncertainty over their abil-

ity to continue their lives in

He added that H.R. 559 will

not only be a legal remedy for

the 1,038 individuals and their

families, but also for the Com-

CNMI-only resident status.

H.R. 559 would grant them

Torres told Murkowski that

he has been in communica-

of Homeland Security on this

issue and it was the depart-

ment's recommendation to

have the U.S. Congress pass

legislation to fix this issue and

provide greater legal status for

these individuals to remain in

passage of this legislation and

humbly request your under-

standing for the urgency of its

The Northern Mariana Is-

lands Long-Term Residents

Relief Act, or H.R. 559, which

was introduced by Delegate

enactment," said Torres.

"I ask for your support in

these islands."

monwealth.

the CNMI.

Murkowski yesterday.

HR 559

From Page 1

ligations under the Proclamation and the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act are met.

All comments and information received by July 12 will be considered. The draft EA is available for review at https://www.fws.gov/refuge/ mariana trench marine national monument/).

Public comments on the draft EA can be submitted:

■ Via email: mike marxen@fws.gov; or

■ Via mail to: Attn: Mike Marxen, Pacific Islands Refuges and Monuments Office, 300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 5-231, Honolulu, HI, 96850.

All comments and materials received will become part of the public record associated with this action. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifiable information in your comments, you should be aware that your entire comment-including your personally identifiable information-may be made publicly available at any time.

More information about the monument may be found at: https://www.fws.gov/refuge/mariana\_trench\_marine\_ national monument/ (PR)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig speaks during the roundtable discussion with representatives from the Rota business community regarding his decision to cease commercial operations at the East Dock of the island.

## MVA

From Page 1

she said.

"Altogether it doesn't make sense. MVA is a vital part of the economy. And it should be the last that would be touched," she added.

Cavanagh said if MVA does not promote the CNMI as a destination, then it just prolongs the austerity measures for government employees.

She said MVA is owed \$4 million in hotel occupancy tax as the total amount for the December collection is still in arrears.

Cavanagh said they have

received 50 percent of the collection prior to this month—\$250,000—which would only cover the budget payroll and rent. As a result, the MVA doesn't have the money for marketing and promotions because they just don't have the money to do so, she added.

"It's a huge impact," she said, noting that they are seeing a 17-percent decrease in tourist arrivals just for this past month.

Cavanagh pointed out that the only way to actually get to the point where the CNMI's tourist arrivals were last year or even to a reasonable singledigit decline, is to promote the destination to its key markets.

"So, it's a very dire situation. We're in arrears. We're very much in arrears," she said. All offshore market offices (China, Korea, and Japan) are in arrears, as well as local vendors.

She said she is not sure when the last time the offshore offices got paid, but that they are in arrears about \$1.7 million for those offices.

"It's very serious," Cavanagh said, noting that the last time that this happened was prior to 2013, when MVA was basically on a \$3-million budget from the central government.

She said it was the reason at

that time why the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands lobbied MVA very hard to get Public Law 18-1 passed, during which HANMI voluntarily increased the hotel occupancy tax by 50 percent.

She said HANMI did that because they understand that MVA is very vital to a destination.

'When you have an economy that is driven by tourism, you need to promote the destination. If you don't promote the destination it's very easy to be forgotten," said Cavanagh who is also the current HANMI president and general manager of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

a collaborative effort with partner agencies like the Department of Public Works and the Saipan Mayor's Office, who prepared the burial ground for Lee at the Veteran's

Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), seeks to grant immigration status to certain aliens who have lived in the CNMI legally since Nov. 28, 2009.

A total of 1,038 individuals under the categorical parole or employment authorization document holders would benefit once H.R. 559 is signed into law.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services terminated the program in late December last year. Those under program have a 180-day transition window to get another immigration status to remain in the CNMI legally. That transition window closes at the end of this month.

The original number was 1,039 but, according to Sablan, one of the individuals under the program has already managed to obtain a different immigration status.

H.R. 559 passed the U.S. tion with the U.S. Department House of Representatives last week and now awaits action in the Senate. Time, however, is not on the CNMI's side as the 180-day window under the transitional parole status officially ends on June 29.

> This will affect immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and other stateless individuals, CNMI permanent residents and their IRs, IRs of citizens of Freely Associated States (the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau), caregivers of CNMI residents.

From Page 1

the CNMI in order to properly honor Lee with a three-rifle volley salute, personally carrying Lee's casket into its final resting place, and personally handing the U.S. flag to Lee's widow.

After accepting the flag from the servicemen, Lee's wife, Barbara, said, that although she is going to deeply miss her husband, it was an

honor and a pleasant surprise to have servicemen from the military arm that her husband had served, honor him in the way that they did.

Michelle Lee, the daughter of Lee, will always remember him as the strong man she had always known. She said that, although her father was sick for a long time, he carried himself like he was not and never allowed anyone to feel sorry for him.

Lee was a veteran of the Vietnam War and received

multiple military accolades in his 30 years of service.

He was a recipient of a Purple Heart, a Vietnam Service Medal with a silver and two bronze stars, Humanitarian Service Medal, 7th Good Conduct Award, and more.

Lee is survived by his wife, their three children Steve, Paul Jr., and Michelle, and their grandchildren.

It was VA executive director Stanley Iakopo's first military funeral since he took office.

Iakopo hopes to honor all

the veterans in the Commonwealth in a similar way with at least one representative from the Department of Defense in the veteran's respective division when they were still in the armed forces.

Iakopo said the service was Cemetery in Marpi.

# Reprogramming bill heads to Torres

By JON PEREZ jon\_perez@saipantribune.com

A bill that would give several officials full re-programming authority is now headed to the Governor's Office after the Senate, in yesterday's special session at the Senate chamber on Capital Hill, passed the measure with a 7-1 vote.

House Bill 21-56, House Substitute 1, which is a short-term bill that ends in fiscal year 2020, would give reprogramming authority to the governor, chief justice, Legislative Bureau director, municipal mayors, and the municipal council.

Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (R-Saipan) introduced H.B. 21-56 that passed the House in a session last Tuesday.

Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), who voted no, said he has no problem supporting the bill and that he even backed Public Law 15-1 that also gave the governor reprogramming authority. But the situation is different now.

"Back when 15-1 voted, we knew that the revenue was not going to get there or the revenue won't continue to go down. Today is different since there are a lot of questions that the Legislature wants to ask," said Manglona,

Manglona wrote Gov. Ralph DLG Torres yesterday to obtain information on the status of the casino business gross revenue tax.

Sen. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) said the bill might be unpopular to some but the decision is the most practical one at this moment in the CNMI economy.

Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) said the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, of which he is the vice chair, has been transparent in making its decisions based on their meetings with Torres and Finance Secretary David Atalig. "We've been meeting almost daily."

"Right now, the authorization of the bill that will be provided to the governor, for me, is just one of the components that is necessary out of the complexities in the CNMI financial resources that we need now. We are trying to alleviate the austerity that we're in."



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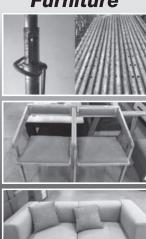
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## Probable cause found to try man for alleged burglary

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA Kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The Superior Court found probable cause to put on trial the man who is accused of breaking into the home of NMI Museum executive director Daniel Aquino in April.

During the preliminary hearing yesterday, Joshua James Torres Cruz's lawyer, Stephanie Boutsicaris of the Office of the Public Defender, informed the court that Cruz would be waiving his right to a preliminary hearing while still preserving his constitutional rights.

By waiving a preliminary hearing, probable cause is found by default to proceed with the charges against a defendant.

The court ordered Cruz to return to court on June 17 for an arraignment before Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja.

Heather Barcinas, Office of the Attorney General's acting chief prosecutor, appeared on behalf of the government.

Cruz, 27, was arrested last June 4 after a confidential source gave the police a tip that led to Cruz's arrest. He was arrested wearing some jewelry that Aquino later identified as that of his son's.

The confidential source told police that two men may have been responsible for the burglary because they had some of the reported stolen items. However, after police spoke with both men, they both told police that they got the jewelry from Cruz.

One of the men, who is related to Cruz, told police that Cruz gave him the jewelry to pay off a \$40 debt. The man, in turn, sold some of the jew-

elry to the other man, who sold them to multiple pawn-shops on island.

The Aquinos were able to recover over \$10,000 of their stolen jewelry.

According to Saipan Tribune archives, the Aquino residence in Susupe was broken into between 7am and 11am on April 23 and pieces of jewelry and more were taken.

The burglars reportedly rummaged through the house and stole only the jewelry box that contained many family heirlooms and senti-

mental jewelry

Aquino said that some of the things that were stolen were their children's jewelry that they grew out of, a gold bracelet with his wife's name engraved on it that was given to her by her mother, a diamond ring, rubies, wedding coins, and more, many of which could not be replaced because of their sentimental value. Most of the jewelry and items stolen were given to them as keepsakes by family members.

# Ex-DOC chief Attao removed from inmate's suit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood has removed Vincent S. At-

since he is no longer the DOC commissioner.

Current acting DOC commissioner Wally Flores Villagomez will be substituted in the lawsuit, pursuant to

the Federal Rule of Civil

tao as a defendant in a lawsuit filed a prison inmate,

Procedure.

It was inmate Anthony Rios who requested the substitution. Rios is serving a 45-year prison term for sexual crimes. He filed a petition for habeas corpus and named as respondent the DOC commissioner.

Rios alleged that then-DOC commissioner Attao denied his request to use the computer with internet access so he could research to support his case.

According to court records, Rios pleaded guilty to three counts of sexual abuse in 1997. He was sentenced to five years. After his release from prison in 2003, Rios reoffended and was sentenced to five years. In 2012, he reoffended again and was charged with sexual assault. Based upon those charges, the government evoked his probation in both the 1997 and 2003 cases.

In 2012, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho sentenced Rios to the maximum 45 years for the 1997 and 2003 cases.

Rios appealed, but the CNMI Supreme Court affirmed his conviction in 2015 and the 45-year prison term that Camacho imposed on him.







## **Budget resolution up \$1.7M**

**By JON PERE7** 

jon\_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The Senate passed House Concurrent Resolution 21-1, Senate Draft 1 yesterday with amendments that slightly increased the total budgetary resources for appropriation to benefit the Commonwealth's educational sector. The total local revenue and resources available for appropriation went up by over \$1.7 million, from \$147.1 million to \$148.8 million.

The Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, chaired by Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Saipan), learned of the increase after meeting with Finance Secretary David Atalig and Office of Management and Budget special assistant Virginia Villagomez.

"Based on the governor's request on the resources to move around, we identified a couple of earmarks that were intended to be suspended to be used for general appropriation," Hofschneider said after yesterday's session on Capital Hill. "That explains why there is an increase of approximately \$1.7 million in the budget available for appropriation."

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ivan

## >> Senate OKs **HR 21-1 with** amendments

A. Blanco (R-Saipan) said the amendments would somehow ease the financial burden for the Public School System. "The amendments incorporated by members of the Senate and passed is a restatement of the administration's budget proposal."

The identified balance will go to our educational systems such as PSS and [the Northern Marianas College]. It's not much, but the proposal, in my initial discussions with House members, has the support of both the House majority leadership and the minority," Blanco said.

P.L. 20-59 is an act that reserved the license revenues,

where the funds are derived from the annual fees from the amusement machines within the Commonwealth.

Hofschneider said the amendment heeds the recommendations of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. "Some of the provisions, projected funds, and earmarks are embedded into the budget package. As a result of that exercise, the total revenue for appropriation

to \$148,891,002," he said. Stricken out were the Cigarette Excise Tax to Tobacco

increased from \$147,135,215

Control or P.L. 13-38 amounting to \$3.5 million and the 3-percent Excise Tax transfer to Cancer Fund P.L. 13-42 as amended by P.L. 18-64, which amounts to \$1.4 million.

Hofschneider said there was no intention of suspending 4 CMC § 1508 of P.L. 20-59 based on their meetings with Atalig and Villagomez. "So, therefore, it was included in the message. We have to take

heed that it is not meant to be. Therefore, we have to memorialize it and look at the projected revenue that is expected for fiscal year 2020."

"That is what we understood during meetings with the administration and Finance. That it was not intended. That is why we have to reinstate it into the earmarks. However, the other two earmarks, it was intended to be suspended. We therefore need to remove from the earmarks and embedded it down to the total of appropriation."



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## TSL Foundation assists Miss Marianas pageant

Recognizing the importance of providing a platform for women empowerment, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation is supporting the 2019 Miss Marianas pageant that will be held tomorrow night at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The TSL Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Tan-Holdings Corp., has donated

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\$4,750 to the competition's organizer, Stella Marianas, during the sponsors presentation ceremony at Fiesta Resort last Wednesday morning.

"We join the rest of the community in supporting the 2019 Miss Marianas pageant. We at TanHoldings and Tan Siu Lin Foundation would like to see women be given more opportunities to be heard and lead. We wish to see more women become leaders and take an active role in making our islands a better place to live in by promoting their advocacies and representing the CNMI

on the world stage," said Tan-Holdings Corp. Community Relations director Carline Sablan, who handed the check to Stellar Marianas president Laila Y. Boyer and other group officials.

The foundation's donation was on top of the \$10,000 it earlier committed to Stellar Marianas to fund the Miss Universe Pageant's charter fee. The CNMI is hoping to send a representative to the 2020 Miss Universe after a 13-year absence. Shequita Bennett was the Commonwealth's last representative to the pageant; she competed in the 2006 Miss Universe in Los Angeles, California.

"We are extremely grateful for the amazing support the Tan Si Lin Foundation has extended to Stellar Marianas. It's going to be a fruitful partnership in terms of helping the CNMI get back to the Miss Universe stage," Boyer said.

In supporting the CNMI's return to Miss Universe, Tan-Holdings chief executive Jerry Tan said, "We should capitalize on every chance to promote our beautiful islands to the rest of the world. TanHoldings

Miss Marianas 2018 Celine Cabrera, seated center, and the candidates of the 2019 Miss Marianas pageant pose for a photo with Stellar Marianas officials, TanHoldings Corp. executives, and representatives from the Tan Siu Foundation, which is a sponsor of the competition that will be held tomorrow at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation are honored to be part of Miss Marianas, as it seeks to open doors for young women hoping to make a difference in the community and gain lifechanging experiences."

Tomorrow, 2018 Miss Marianas Celine Cabrera will relinquish her crown to one of the six candidates: Dierra Palacios, Junalyn Billedo, Riane Capalad, Merly Ann Fernandez, Sharon Palacios, and Shannon Sasamoto.

"We wish all the candidates good luck. Regardless of the results of the competition, may you continue to inspire others to participate in worthy endeavors, such as Miss Marianas, and do things that would highlight the beauty of our islands and its people," TSL Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino said. (PR)

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## IN LIGHT OF AUSTERITY MEASURES Public safety still main priority

The Department of Public measures the Torres admin-Safety and its divisions have istration has implemented, been facing their own struggles as a result of the recent keeping public safety a priorgovernment-wide austerity ity, according to DPS spokes-

but DPS is determined about

person Adrian Pangelinan.

In a brief phone interview, Pangelinan said that, although DPS is facing its own struggles with the austerity measures, like all government entities, DPS is still prioritizing public safety and believes it's just a matter of scheduling.

Pangelinan explained that DPS, being a government entity, is also affected by the recently implemented work hour cuts and that goes for its divisions like the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Criminal Investigative Bureau, the Drug Enforcement Taskforce, etc.

That does not mean that officers will be pulled out from patrolling the streets, detectives will stop doing sting operations, BMV will stop issuing licenses, CIB officers will drop cold case investigation, etc., Pangelinan said.

This just means DPS has to ensure that the 72-hour work schedule is strictly adhered to. "If an officer has a shift to cover but has already reached the 72-hours. another officer will take on that shift who has not reached their 72-hours yet," he said.

The DPS central office in Susupe will be closed every government payday Friday, in accordance to the work hour cuts. (Kimberly A. Bautista)



## WINNERS HARDWARE

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Kagman High School sent off its Class of 2019 last Wednesday afternoon in a graduation ceremony at the American Memorial Park amphitheater.

The class valedictorian, Britney Takai, wants to pursue a biology degree in college, while the salutatorian, De Faustina Camacho, wants to pursue a degree in psychology.

In a later interview, Takai

said she is looking at eventually becoming a forensic scientist in the CNMI.

"I am going to attend the Boise State University to take up biology," Takai said, adding that she wants to come back to the CNMI to do research. "I want to come back and be a forensic scientist," she added.

Takai noted that she is fas-

## Takai, Camacho lead KHS Class of 2019

cinated with criminal justice, humans, and life.

"I put two and two together," she said, adding that she came up with the decision to become a forensic scientist even before she became a senior.

Takai also participated in



**BRITNEY TAKAI** Board of Education Award Valedictorian

she said.

the State Trade Expansion

Program, or the STEP UP pro-

gram, in the CNMI, where she

discovered a love for research.

"I am very excited to do it,"

Camacho, on the other

hand, would be taking up psy-



**DE FAUSTINA CAMACHO** Commissioner's Award Salutatorian



**NICOLAS NEAL CANGCO NEKAI JR.** 

Principal's Award

chology at the Hollins University in Roanoke, Virginia. This early, she is already sure about coming back to Saipan after college. She is still unsure as yet about what she actually plans to do here then.

come a doctor, but I feel like my plans would change once I get out there. I might go into business, I might go into obstetrics, I'm not too sure," she said.

At Wednesday's graduation, Takai also collected the Board of Education Award, while Camacho collected the Commissioner's Award and Governor's Outstanding Student Award, while Nicolas Neal Cangco Nekai Jr. collected the Principal's Award.

Also honored during the KHS 2019 commencement exercises were the other top 10 students of the class: Mark Anthony Pantol Dilay, Jose Dyangelo C. Cabrera, Mariecris A. Estal, Marc Angelo P. Borja, Mikah Sarsua Bandoja, Kristine Mae Palmes, Kyle Peter T. San Nicolas, and Genzo Matua S. Gonzales. (Erwin Encinares)

## TMS promotes 53 to high school

By ERWIN ENCINARES

erwin\_encinares@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The Tanapag Middle School promoted a total of 53 students to high school during their promotion ceremony last June 12 in their campus, led by Joan Adelia M. Tomokane as valedictorian and Jinnosuke Suzuki as salutatorian.

Tomokane is looking to attend Kagman High School, while Suzuki is looking to go to Marianas High School.

"I am looking forward to [high school]," Tomokane said recalling a field trip her class had to the campus the day before the promotion. "When I went there it was a lot of fun. I think I am going to meet a lot of new people and make new friends.

Tomokane noted that she did not join any sports during

middle school, but the possibility is definitely there in high school. "I'm not sure. I'll just live in the moment."

Tomokane noted that being

class valedictorian is going to

make her parents proud. "I tried

so hard in school for my family

Suzuki plans to continue

swimming in high school.

He also plans to get good

Also recognized at the pro-

and parents," she added.



JOAN ADELIA M. **TOMOKANE** Valedictorian

grades there.



JINNOSUKE SUZUKI Salutatorian

motion ceremony were the top students per subject area, namely the English language art award for Ashley S. Tenorio, the mathematics award for Jessica Pineda, career exploration

award for Bea Joy Blanco, physical education award for Suzuki, leadership corps, career and technical education-CTE, and Chamorro-Carolinian Language Heritage Studies award for Kiana C. Camacho, computer, CTE, and social studies award for Guinaiya Laurelle Ogumoro, and general arts, CTE, and science award

for Tomokane.

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## Brabu celebrates 10th anniversary

By BEA CABRERA CORRESPONDENT

Brabu Pharmacy is celebrating 10 years of being a partner of the community this month and one constant throughout those years is Ted and Kathy Parker's philosophy of prioritizing patients and their needs.

"We do not overlook what is important and that is our patients. ...Our basic philosophy is we put our patients first above anything else," said owner and pharmacist Ted Parker.

That includes doing their best to help patients with insurance and the elderly population in helping them sign up and understand what Medicare part D is all about.

"Thinking of our patients

them was a way of getting energy behind our project and the response actually has been very good because we are now on our tenth year," Parker added.

The biggest change in the foreseeable future is the opening of a Brabu Pharmacy in Kagman, according to Parker. "It's not fully functional yet but we have the front open, so people can drop things off and pick up them up the next day."

He is steadily working to get the pharmacy's credentials done so it can start functioning as a full pharmacy to serve the Kagman community.

But Brabu Pharmacy is not just about medicines. It also keeps a watchful eye on its environmental footprint. One

and building relationships with aspect of that is they encourage their patients to bring in their empty medicine bottles for refills.

> "My wife is in the environmental sciences and we are very environmentally conscious. ... We have products that are safe for the ocean, water system and we carry things like chlorine-free bleach and natural make-up. ...We now took all of our sunscreens and sent it back so we can only get sunscreen that is safe for the coral reefs and this is what sets us apart," Parker added.

> Like their patients, Brabu Pharmacy staff are also part of the family. "We currently have a staff of 12 people and we try to encourage them to improve themselves and so you can't

be stagnant and work here for through online classes and sent we were able to deliver [medithe rest of your life. ... We encourage them to go to school or get online classes."

That has resulted in some notable personal milestones. Brabu Pharmacy has some staff that have completed pharmacy school and a couple of students from the Northern Marianas College they've mentored who have gotten their certified pharmacy technician certificates, a nationally-recognized board exam so they can go and be employed anywhere in the United States.

One example of that is Gregoria Trina T. Ito, who has been a Brabu Pharmacy employee since 2009 and started out as a cashier. Ten years later, she is now a lead certified pharmacy technician.

"Ted and Kathy are very supportive. They put

me to Guam to get my written exam. ...I learned a lot from Mr. Parker and he did not only teach me to be a good worker but also to be a good person.

"In the morning when I got to work, it feels like I'm leaving home to come to another home," she said.

At this point, Ito is, in turn, now mentoring others.

After Super Typhoon Yutu hit the CNMI in 2018, Brabu Pharmacy stepped up to the plate to provide continuous service to the community. The pharmacy had a lot of hardwon lessons from Typhoon Soudelor in 2015, so it had all kinds of back-ups.

"On the second day after the typhoon, we were open but had limited hours, but one of the things that we did [is that], since our staff live in different locations,

cines] to patients," Parker said.

That means Brabu Pharmacy staff went to Kagman, San Vicente, Dandan, Koblerville, Capital Hill and Navy Hill, and Papago. "So when people needed something, whenever our staff would go home, they would just stop by and deliver. We had stocks of personal hygiene products and took them out to the shelters. ... By the fourth day after the typhoon, we were fully operational," he added.

Brabu Pharmacy is facing the next years with providing what is good for the community and, at the same time, reinventing for the better, Parker said.

"We are constantly challenging ourselves to be better because, the minute you become complacent, you become lazy, then your patients start to suffer."





First Hawaiian Bank proudly congratulates Brabu Pharmacy and Wellness Center on its 10th Anniversary.

We wish you many more years of providing professional health services to the island communities of Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

It all starts with YES!



Brabu Pharmacy is celebrating 10 years of service at their branch on Middle Road.



From left, Brabu Pharmacy administrator and purchase officer Robby Taman, lead certified pharmacy technician Gregoria Trina T. Ito, owner and pharmacist Ted Parker, and cashier/on-the-counter per-

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## Water outage in Kagman

There was an emergency water service interruption for customers in Kagman II yesterday due to a damaged 8-inch distribution water line that was discovered yesterday afternoon.

Water personnel of the

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. were expected to complete repair work today, June 14, at 3am. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of services soon after. As a result of the repair, a more reliable water system will be

provided to the community.

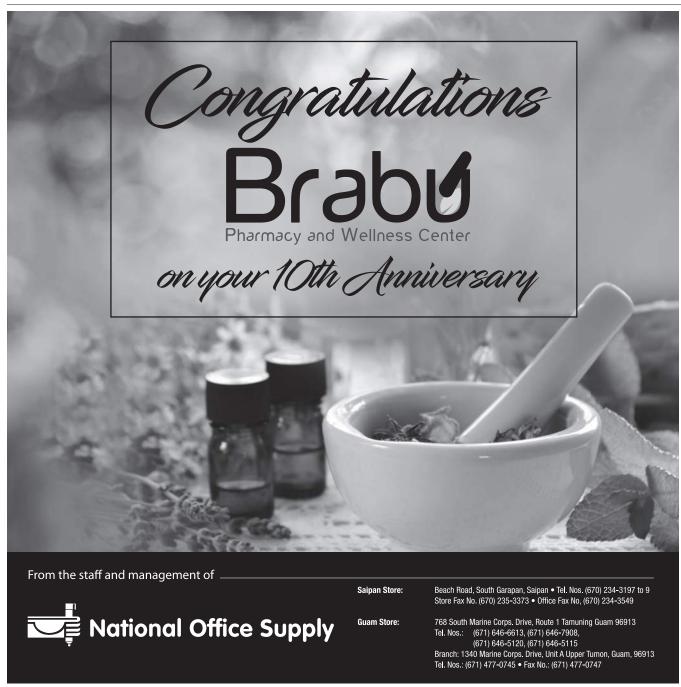
The outage affected CUC customers along Alageta Road, Bilembines Street, and Dokdok Drive.

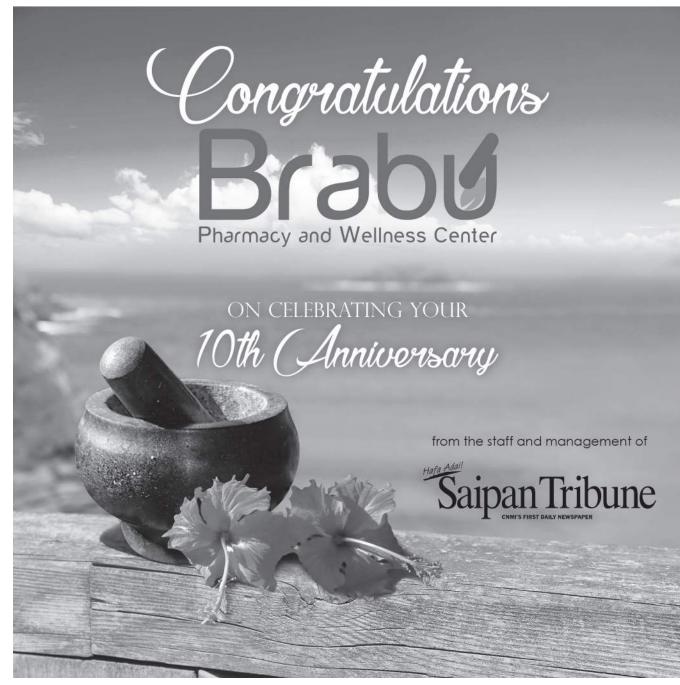
For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center at 664-4282. (PR)

FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2019 **11** SAIPAN TRIBUNE



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## Father's Day deals



Doting father Adam Walsh of the Northern Marianas College indulges in some playtime with his son, Gabe.

Father's Day is this Sunday, which means great choices on making our dads feel extra-special. Here is a rundown on a variety of gift ideas and dining experience to choose from.

Take dad to **Triple J Truckload Sale** and see amazing deals on daily essentials, quality brands, and cool electronics. If dad loves to do home carpentry and tinkering with cars, he gets 10-percent off on all Ryobi tools and all Craftsman Shop vacuums, tool boxes, and mechanical tool sets. Visit them from 11am to 7pm on Thursday and Friday, 9am to 7pm on Saturday, and 11am to 6pm on Sunday.

Give dad a new office desk with side table, highback office chair, sectional sofa set with recliners, or a new queen-size bed at Town House and enjoy big discounts. Buying \$1,000 worth or more comes with free assembly and delivery from June 7 to 16, 2019. Visit them in Chalan Kanoa from Tuesday to Friday, from noon to 7pm, and Saturday to Sunday, from 11am to 7pm. For more information, call (670) 235-6356

Give dad the gift of music by getting him a Beats earphones from IT&E. For only \$120, get a Beats X Wireless Earphones and, for only \$200, get Beats Power Beats 3 Wireless Earphones. More special gadgets are available in-store.

Midea Electric is spreading the love for fathers by giving discounts on their Midea Brand refrigerators and AUX Brand aircon and inverter. Installment payment is available. For more information, call (670) 234-0680 or (670) 235-0680.

Docomo Pacific has the newest device for your dad. A new promo called "NOW" has \$60 Access Plan, which includes endless local voice and SMS, 30-gigbyte data, and Party Pass. Party Pass

includes endless use of social media, chat and music apps without affecting your monthly data bucket. For more information, call (670) 488-CARE.

For only \$30 for adult and \$16 for child, take dad to brunch for an international buffet with live carving station, seafood, free-flowing iced cold beer, and sparkling wines at **Isla Café at Kanoa Resort** in Susupe. For reservations, call (670) 237-8742/43 and ask for Jen, Julie or Elaine.

Celebrate dad in a grand way at **GrandVrio Resort's Tropicana Restaurant.** On June 16, enjoy Father's Day brunch for only \$35 adult and \$18 and Father's Day dinner buffet for only \$40 for adults and \$30 for residents. For reservations, call (670)237-2537.

Aqua Resort Club's Costa Terrace Restaurant wants dads to indulge in their Sunday brunch—international cuisine buffet, free-flowing sparkling wine, Bud Light and Budweiser, and raffle prizes—all for only \$36 for adult and \$18 for child. Extend to dinner at Kevin's The Prime Rib & Seafood and enjoy a delicious five-course surfand-turf set for only \$55. For reservations, call (670) 322-1234.

Take dad to **McDonald's** on Middle Road or Garapan, Beach Road and enjoy a 10-percent discount on total purchase. Redeemable only on June 16 and applicable to in-store purchase only. Fathers must be present to avail of discount and this promo does not apply to any existing promotion.

IShop Paseo, IShop Kanoa and IShop Fiesta believes super dads deserve a treat. Enjoy 30-percent off on dad favorites like Crocs Classics, Speedo rash guards and DC caps and save 10 percent on all other items only on June 16. (Bea Cabrera)

#### **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

## Writers' workshop tomorrow at JKPL

Walt F.J. Goodridge will be leading a writers' workshop tomorrow, June 15, 2019, from 9am to 12pm, at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's video teleconference room. Admission is \$10 in advance, and \$12 at the door (\$5 for students with ID). Twenty percent of admission proceeds will be donated directly to the library on the day of the event. Seating is limited. To register, visit the front desk of the library. For more information, and to see some success stories from past workshops, visit www. saipanwriters.com. (PR)

## 36<sup>th</sup> Agricultural Fair on July 27

The 36<sup>th</sup> Agricultural Fair is happening on on Saturday, July 27, 2019, at the Garapan Central Park, from 8amto 2pm

This event is intended for farmers and ranchers to once again showcase the fruits of their hard work. This is free and open to the public.

Call Solly Takai at 234-3276 or Diane Gabaldon, Soil and Conservation, at 256-3320 for more information. *(PR)* 

## Free family movie nights this summer

This summer, Saipan Vegas invites the community to join them for free Outdoor Family Movie Night with free popcorn and drinks every Friday at the Saipan Vegas Golf Course for the school holidays.

The launch of the movie night will be this Friday, June 14, from 6pm to 9pm. The event will feature an entertainment at 6:30pm by Saipan Studio 29:11 Dance Group and a magic performance by Neil Fama before the screening of the Aquaman movie at 7pm.

"We are aware that many families [on] Saipan are still having a tough time since [Super] Typhoon Yutu, and these are trying times for many, so we would like to give families [on] Saipan a chance to have fun family night together," said Gus Noble, MP Holdings consultant.

Movie nights are open to all ages and they should bring their own chairs or mats. (PR)

## SHRM meeting to tackle EQ in the workplace

The Society for Human Resource Management-NMI Chapter invites the public to its general membership meeting on June 20, 2019, at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's beginning at 11am.

The meeting will feature University of Guam's Dr. John Rivera discussing emotional intelligence in the workplace.

The presentation includes Giovanni's lunch buffet at the cost of \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat

by contacting Penny Jones by e-mail at penelope.jones@hyatt.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at 323-5867/68. (PR)

## Weightlifting contest moved to July 27

The 2019 CNMI Weightlifting Championship has been rescheduled and will be held on July 27, a Saturday, at the Minachom Attao pavilion in Susupe, starting at 10am.

Registration deadline is noon of June 25, 2019, to be delivered to Greg Borja or Jeanne Rayphand at the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. office in Gualo Rai. Entry fee is \$10, while the admission fee is \$5.

For more information, contact Borja at 787 6642 or Rayphand at 287-9807. (PR)

## Walk of honor to mark 75 years since 'Battles'

Today, June 14, the Committee for the 75th Anniversary of the Battles for Saipan and Tinian invites the community to a Walk of Honor on the eve of Saipan's Invasion Day to remember the sacrifices made by so many 75 years ago. Participants will be provided an LED candle (adults) or glowin-the-dark bracelet (youth).

Registration will begin at 5:30pm at the Veterans Memorial at Kilili Beach, followed by a brief program at 6pm, and the walk at 6:30pm. Walkers will head north along the Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway and turn around at the Japanese tank at Quartermaster Road. Along the way there will be water stops and activity stations. The winners of the Memorial Day poetry, art, and wreath competitions will have their work on display.

If you have questions about the walk, call the American Memorial Park Visitor Center at 234-7207 x 2020 or email brooke\_nevitt@nps.gov. (PR)

#### Vote for Yvette Bennett in swimsuit tilt

The U.S. National Miss Bikini Swimsuit & Fitness Competition that Yvette Bennett has entered will be held this July 9 to 12 in Miami, Florida. She and her family are urging the CNMI to help her by voting for her for the "People's Choice Award," which will give her additional points in the Miss Bikini Swimsuit & Fitness Competition. To vote, log on to www.missbikinius.com. (PR)

## JIL Saipan marks 22nd anniversary

The Jesus is Lord Church Saipan is celebrating its 22nd Anniversary on June 16, 2019, starting at 4pm, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, with a theme "Proclaiming Jesus is Lord." This year's guest

speaker will be Pastor Abigail Corpuz, Area Pastor of Area 5, JIL West USA supervising Hawaii, Saipan and Guam. She is visiting Saipan with her husband and daughter. The Jesus is Lord Church Saipan is in San Vicente/

Dandan Village. For more infor-

mation or to obtain a ride to the event, call (670) 989-8053. (PR)

## Time management training set

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce and Jim Arenovski of Island Training Solutions will be hosting a training on time management at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room (Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, Suite 315) on June 26, from 9am to 12pm. Registration fee is \$50 per person for Chamber members and \$55 per person for non-members. Light refreshments are included. Reservations and advance payment are required as seating is limited. To register, call 670-234-7150 or email coordinator2@ saipanchamber.com. (PR)





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## **Opinion**



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## **EDITORIAL**

# Why is the US waging war on China's Huawei?

By HENRY C. LUCAS

t is unusual for a country to wage war on a company, which makes the ongoing United States-Huawei dispute so strange and disconcerting. The Trump administration has prohibited U.S. firms from doing business with the Chinese tech behemoth and is trying to convince other countries to ban Huawei equipment from their 5G networks. Huawei is not being accused of having done anything illegal; the case is based on actions the company might take.

The public arguments – for example, those from U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo – are that having Huawei equipment in the networks puts "American information that crosses the networks at risk." Since the Chinese government has an interest in Huawei, it could order the company to allow it access to data flowing across the network.

Cyber-mischief is hardly new. We long have been fighting viruses, the theft of information and intellectual property, attacks on different firms, attacks between countries and ransomware. (Baltimore officials are still recovering from a recent ransomware attack.) There is a cybersecurity industry devoted to helping organizations protect themselves against such attacks, and companies have Security Operations Centers that monitor systems. One large bank is rumored to have 1,000 security employees.

The best way to ensure that others cannot benefit from your information is to encrypt your data. Spies throughout history have practiced the encryption of secret messages. The Caesar Cipher is one of the earliest (and simplest): The algorithm is that each letter of the message to be encoded is shifted x places down in the alphabet. With a shift of 1, A is replaced by B, B by C and so on. Modern encryption involves using a key and an algorithm, for a system that's far harder to decode.

When you purchase a product online, you interact with a URL that uses SSL, or Secure Sockets Layer, which establishes an encrypted link between a browser and a server, shielding your credit card and other information from hackers. If you explore Gmail, you will find that Google encrypts most messages. Amazon Web Services supports client-side encryption for sending and retrieving data from its cloud and provides encryption for data stored in its cloud.

It would seem that most users of the technology know that to protect their data, they need to encrypt it. The chances of Huawei using its 5G equipment to steal and understand information would be very low if data are encrypted.

Some U.S. intelligence figures say they are concerned that the Chinese government could force Huawei and other Chinese companies to shut down the networks built with their equipment. But how likely is this highly disruptive

See WHY on Next Page



## MVA lifeblood

hades of 2010, 2011, and 2012. We find ourselves facing "austerity" holidays, layoffs, short hours, short paychecks, short tempers, much of it avoidable if we were not so short-sighted.

First and foremost, we still rely our tourism-based economy for 92 percent of our income. Tourism is essentially the CNMI'S *only job*. Yes we have a part-time job begging money from Uncle Sam but that only supplies about \$100 million a year on average in non-FEMA typhoon years out of a \$1.3-billion economy. If you were to pick a job that was to be your only job, tourism would be down the list somewhere because it is so volatile, so unstable.

A 25-cent screw falls off the front of an airplane headed for Destination X. The screw goes through the jet engine intake, it explodes and the plane crashes. No fault of Destination X but the tourists stop coming and it takes months for the arrival numbers to begin stabilizing again because the crash is headline news for weeks or months. Disaster and death sell TV commercials. *Or* some new viral disease is discovered and tourists all over the world stop flying because of the scare of becoming infected. *Or* a major typhoon slaps a destination down and smashes its infrastructure (Soudelor...Yutu), tourists don't like to visit a place that looks like a war zone. They go to Bali or ...? instead of our destination. You get the point. We need another job, another CNMI industry to fall back on when tourism times are tough.

During the high times we did little or nothing to find another job because we were busy raking in the dough from the CNMI's tourism job. We did not diversify our economy, so here we sit with *only* tourism providing our country's living wage. Too late now to do anything but make the best of the spot we put ourselves in. There is tomorrow, however.

Still, tourism is a clean, sustainable and wonderful business,

when it is well funded and working right.

That brings us to reflecting on the last major economic downturn in 2010, 2011, 2012. Tourism tubed because MVA did not get sufficient funding to pay its bills and could not promote the destination properly to bring in the tourists and their spending money. So the economy tubed. What brought us out of it? Public Law 18-1 of 2013, which made it *mandatory* for the CNMI Finance Department to remit 80 percent of the newly-increased hotel occupancy tax to MVA within 30 days. That enabled MVA to pay its offshore bills timely for the first time in years and allowed MVA to begin promoting our destination strongly in Japan, Korea, China, Russia, and Taiwan. Arrivals doubled, CNMI income went up even more, the economy boomed, everybody was happy because the money flowing again. MVA even had money to accomplish some major destination improvements on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

## **SOUR GRAPES**By BRUCE BATEMAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman resides on Saipan with a wife, a son, and an unknown number of boonie dogs. He has owned and operated a number of unusual businesses and most recently worked as the marketing manager

for MVA. Bruce likes to read, travel, tinker with bicycles, hike, swim, and play a bit of golf. He is opinionated and writes when the moon is full and the mood strikes.

We came back from a devastating Soudelor pretty fast because we focused hard on destination infrastructure. Yutu not so much. Departing passengers at our airport climb down the stairs in the rain because we haven't repaired our jetway movable exit hallways. Visitors take tours through areas of Saipan and Tinian that still look like the typhoon hit last week. So here we sit with visitor arrivals and their cash money down significantly. What do we do? OMG...we *defund* the MVA and spend that hotel tax promotional seed money on important, but not moneymaking, promotional projects by MVA as mandated by law. Did I mention something about *shortsighted* policies? Who pays MVA's hotel tax? Tourists, not us residents.

Here are the particulars: *The central government has not been paying MVA* the monthly funds due it by law. As of the June 12 board meeting, they are \$4.7 million behind in their payments to MVA, according to Pricilla Iakopo, MVA managing director. That is \$4.7 MILLION that has not gone to pay offshore advertising and promotional bills that keep the visitors coming to our beautiful shores. MVA is already getting behind and owes its offshore promotional vendors \$1.7 million and local vendors will soon be lining up as well. Even the payroll of MVA marketing specialists and other employees is in jeopardy. You should be aware that MVA spends roughly 80 percent of its funds on promoting and improving the destination and only 20 percent on administration and payroll—about opposite of other CNMI government agencies.

Marian Aldan-Pierce, MVA board chairman, said at that same board meeting, "If we start cutting programs and if we can't pay our offshore bills, it will take years to recover and get our economy going again." Board vice chair Gloria Cavanaugh opined that, "All expenditure items outside our direct mission should go on hold." Referring, I suppose, to the millions of dollars MVA has spent improving tourist sites, roadways, the Paseo de Marianas and other Rota, Tinian, and Saipan infrastructure. If you



**EDITORIAL POLICY** 

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan,

## Economic contraction

he effects of the economic contraction bring the accompanying reality of far less money for basic needs. It has recently prompted cuts across the board here at home. Everyone has converged into the daily use of the term "cut."

It has boiled down to how much cut must be imposed on the NMI government to stay afloat for the balance of the fiscal year. It is far more serious than meets the eye.

The uncertainty has prompted House minority members to call for an oversight of NMI fiscal posture: extent of the decrease, current obligations and revenue generation. Timely!

Unless this is factually pinned down, every other discussion turns into pointless and frustrated meet. Discussion of the issue requires cool heads and rhetoric when it comes to the table for meaningful exchange and disposition.

Historically, though, we've heard tons of rhetoric about improving this or that sector of the economy for years. Nothing has happened except perhaps the search for another opportunity to repeat the same exhausted redundancy.

The only thing we could find is a massive graveyard of empty speeches on these issues over the last six decades. Didn't know we're masters of ignorance and arrogance, oblivious to the economic ruins spreading all over.

**Investments:** Let's hope contraction tapers off soon, followed by resurgence of investments. More investments from private industry would set the stage for new revenue generation to hopefully pay for mounting domestic needs. Would this happen anytime soon? With reluctant stagnation, it's anybody's guess!

As we ponder the issue, I recall a declaration of a robust economy in recent past. What happened to it? Was it self-inflicted negligencespending happily beyond our means—a misgiving a bit too hard to domesticate now as revenue heads south quicker than we'd like?

The exit of billions of dollars in Nippon investments is a major issue to contend with. The loss is about \$14 billion that definitely contributed to the contraction here. Is there a backup plan to ease the loss of billions of dollars?

Understood the cost of recovery as a result of storms. But it's quite difficult dissecting the exit of Japanese investments from the islands and how could we regain their trust in partnership. It's

#### WHY

From Page 14

scenario? It would certainly be self-destructive for the Chinese companies involved as their customers would replace their equipment as quickly as possible, fearing another shutdown. And it's unlikely that 5G equipment vendors could bring down the entire internet because of extensive wired connections through backbone providers like UUNET, Level 3, Verizon, AT&T, Qwest, Sprint and IBM. The internet is designed to be robust and to continue working even if one part fails. Shutting down a 5G network in a country would be disruptive, but it wouldn't bring down the

The war on Huawei has several consequences. First, the company is a large vendor of cellphones outside of the United States and its customers will not have access to the full version of Google's Android phone operating system, nor to Google apps. The company would not be able to buy the U.S. chips it has been using in its phones. Huawei has reportedly not developed the sophisticated chips needed for today's cellphones, but the trade war could force it to do so. As a result, U.S. chip makers and others will lose business, and Huawei may develop competing technologies to challenge their sales.

Possibly the war on Huawei is part of a negotiating strategy on trade with China that has nothing to do with technology. It is, nonetheless, disconcerting to hear officials like Mr. Pompeo display such a lack of knowledge of technology.

There is no security reason to shut off American chips and software for Huawei phones. The challenge for Huawei and engineers designing 5G systems is to create networks with enough safeguards and redundancy that Huawei could not shut them down on orders from Beijing. Then let the market decide what equipment to use for 5G networks.

Henry C. Lucas is the Robert H. Smith Chair of Information Systems at the University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of one Long and winding road!

Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

**Clueless:** It isn't surprising the elected elite being clueless why the exit of investments. Whatever happened to initial apprehension or depth of perception that you failed to see this contraction?

Isn't it your fiduciary duty to figure out the beast? Aren't you supposed to be working on our very own set of socio-economic plans? Have you done anything up that alley or have you relegated it to "not yet, already?" Why the persistent snooze on the wheels?

It's humiliating your donning the combined arrogance and ignorance while struggling to look and sound intelligent. It's a tale of the lack of "depth of vision" and commitment gift-wrapped in bravery of ignorance. So what happens to forging meaningful policies on major issues? With your acute disorientation, how do we even begin meaningful discussion?

The eleventh-hour mea culpa seems the order of business over engaging the benefits of realistic long-term planning. Is it really difficult putting a blueprint together we could follow to improve the quality of life of our people or "not yet, already?"

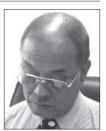
**Brawl:** Just as I thought, PSS could easily resolve salary issues. An assertion by a former government lawyer explains why the system is without funds:

"The leadership used the increased budget to give themselves six-figure salaries. They lied to the voters and spent public money to do so," he said. "PSS leadership is now forcing teachers to sign a contract surrendering pay or face termination.

#### By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/ her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



"Furthermore, over the past few months, PSS leadership has threatened to fire any teacher who talks to anyone outside of PSS, including attorneys." The slugfest was triggered by alleged misappropriation of resources. And leadership at PSS must contend resolving self-inflicted conundrum.

Another view says, "The board of education needs to take the lead in offering solution to the predicament generated by its own making and just now known to the public or to the PSS community such as the pay raises executed in 2017 for central office administration

"It is time to shift the resources down to the schools and enable the school officials, teachers, parents, and the supportive community to make decisions at the school-community level. Time to decentralize authority and enhance accountability at the school-community level." I couldn't agree more!

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Response to the return of the Japanese

I strongly do agree with Mr. Bruce Bateman's statement relating to the current Japan market in the CNMI. It is indeed very unfortunate of the current state of Japan market and I certainly do hope for a swift recovery of the market. As Mr. Bateman mentioned, "Lack of sufficient, affordable and conveniently scheduled air seats" may be a factor why the market is in its current state but enhancing the destination could also contribute to bringing in more tourists and repeaters." In 1997, the CNMI had its peak arrival from Japan at 450,000 but the numbers continued to dwindle, resulting in only 39,000 arrivals from Japan in 2018. This effect is not only seen in the CNMI but also in Hawaii and Guam. But in Hawaii, the number of arrival is seen to gradually increase recently with promoting destination aside from Oahu, enhancing and providing new experience to traveler and repeaters from Japan.

It is part of my mission to share and introduce the culture and beauty of Japan here in the CNMI but during my term I would also like to cooperate with the local government officials and business community to assist with restoring the Japan market in the CNMI.

I believe that having a strong bond and good relationship between Japan and the CNMI is highly important. Understanding each other's culture, beauty of the destination, sports relation, economics and interaction of people to people could lead to more interest from travelers. For example, having sister-city between Japan and the CNMI gives a great opportunity for this and to learn about the local delicacy. Or the upcoming Tokyo Olympic/ Paralympic Game will be held in Japan, where many nationalities will gather, giving opportunity for traveler from the CNMI to interact with people from different countries. When the traveler returns to their country, and spread the words on how amazing the culture, beauty of nature and interaction with the local people were, that could lead to their peers also visiting the country.

Lastly, I sincerely respect the many local government officials and business community working day by day to restore the Japan market and I do wish that during my term, I could be part of this community to make CNMI a desirable and unforgettable destination again for the travelers from Japan.

#### Kazuhiko Ono

Head of Office Consular Office of Japan

#### MVA

From Page 14

Strike 3, Yumul's House Bill 21-56

don't have it, you can't spend it improving our islands. Strike 1, Yutu. Strike 2, unlawful late funds transfers to MVA.

...And it gets worse. The same guy (Rep. Ralph Yumul) that saved the CNMI's economic bacon in 2013 with P.L. 18-1 now turns coat and wants to submarine the economy into the dark ages with a new bill, House Bill 21-56, that lets a handful (10 or so) people have the say on where all the money is spent by granting them (likely unconstitutional) "100 percent reprogramming authority." Once that money is "reprogrammed" to some crony deal under the guise of an "emergency" it will never find its way back to its rightful owner. Think. Can you remember any temporary tax that was ever rescinded later? Of course not. Senators, please vote this measure down. No funding, no promotion. No promotion, no tourists. No tourists, no new money. No money, no honey.

#### China side

A crushing blow? Possibly. When the People's Republic of China's Communist Party dictates a travel ban to its citizens, they listen and obey. Case in point, a couple of years back when South Korea installed a high-tech anti-missile system supplied by the U.S., the PRC ordered a ban on travel to that country followed

by a 90-percent drop almost immediately in arrivals from China to South Korea.

If the current travel ban to the U.S. is expanded to include the CNMI, and we were to lose 90 percent of visitors from our No. 1 source country, China (with a 55-percent market share), our economic recovery would derail like an electric Amtrak train on life-support with the plug pulled. Let us all hope this doesn't happen.

#### **Sky pilot: Tourism bonanza**

Why Amelia Earhart? Next time we will look at the possibilities of tying our CNMI destination brand with that of famed aviatrix Amelia Earhart. It's an interesting story and potentially a very profitable one for te Marianas.

Thanks for reading Sour Grapes!

"I don't see any malicious political intent here. Just myopia and shortsightedness."

-Richard Kohn

"Let no wise man flatter himself with the strength of his own judgement, as if he was able to choose any particular station of life for himself. Man is a shortsighted creature, sees but a very little way before him; and as his passions are none of his best friends, so his particular affections are generally his worst counselors."

-Daniel Defoe

**16** FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## The Weather

	5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN								
TODA	AY	SATURDAY SUNDAY M					IDAY	TUES	SDAY
<u>\</u>	(-	·\\(\delta\).		; <del>\</del>		·à:		- <u>À</u>	
Partly cloudy wi showers. east 15 mp	winds 5 to	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 5 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
89°	79°	89°	79°	89°	78°	89°	78°	89°	78°

# YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE

#### PICTURE TIME: 8:09 AM, THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows only a few showers within the Marianas waters, with isolated showers to the south and west of the coastal waters. Satellite shows partly cloudy skies eastward all the way to 152E. The VAD wind profile indicates east winds of 10 to 17 knots through the lowest 7 thousand feet of the air. The buoys reveal combined seas of 3 to 5 feet composed mainly of east swell with some small wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

<b>MICRONESI</b>	A	<b>▲</b> ♥°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

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<b>AROUND TH</b>	E GLOBE	<b>▲</b> ▼°F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 54°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	93° / 66°
Hong Kong	Showers	88° / 79°
Honolulu	Showers	87° / 75°
London	Partly Cloudy	66° / 54°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	73° / 62°
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 82°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	61° / 46°
Miami	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
New York	Partly Cloudy	72° / 60°
Osaka	Cloudy	73° / 66°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 59°
Busan	Showers	75° / 64°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	90° / 68°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	83° / 62°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	63° / 52°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	81° / 61°
Tokyo	Rain	70° / 63°
Washington, DC	Sunny	78° / 60°



Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- ■\*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIP	an harbor tol	DAY FEET
4:40 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.03
11:52 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.01
6:24 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.67
11:41 PM	LOW TIDE	0.96

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Monday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Tuesday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:06 AM	3:56 PM
Saturday	-	3:51 AM	4:52 PM
Sunday	-	4:37 AM	5:48 PM
Monday	-	5:26 AM	6:43 PM
Tuesday	-	6:17 AM	7:37 PM

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	FLIG	HT S	CHEDULE	AS OF	JUNE	E 2, 20	019
	DEI	PARTU	RES		A	RRIVAL	. <b>S</b>
SAIPAN-0	GUAM (	GUM)		GUAM (G	ium)-sa	IPAN	
UA117	9:15am	10:00am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:15am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-I	BUSAN (	(PUS)		BUSAN (	PUS)-SA	IPAN	
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-S	SEOUL (	ICN)		SEOUL (I	CN)-SAI	PAN	
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	7C3402	09:30am	3:10pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	5:10am	8:55am	1, 7	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	6, 7
SAIPAN-S	SHANGH	IAI (PVG	)	SHANGH	AI (PVG)	)-SAIPAN	l
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-I	HANGZH	IOU (HG	H)	HANGZH	ou (HGF	l)-SAIPA	N
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-0	GUANGZ	HOU (CA	N)	GUANGZ	HOU (CA	N)-SAIP	AN
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-I	BEIJING	(PEK)		BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-I	MANILA	(MNL)		MANILA	(MNL)-S	AIPAN	
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-I	HONG K	ONG (HK	( <b>G</b> )	HONG KO	ONG (HK	G)-SAIPA	<b>N</b>
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4	OZ722/625		1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625		1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076		00:30am+1	
UO43		8:25am	1	UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7	UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN 1	O ROTA			1203	9:00AM	9:15AM Daily	
FLIGHT # 1301 1302 1303	DEPARTURE 7:30AM 11:30AM 4:00PM	ARRIVAL 8:00AM 12:00PM 4:30PM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily Daily	1204 1205 1206 1207 1208	10:00AM 11:00AM 12:00PM 1:00PM 2:00PM	10:15AM 11:15AM 12:15PM 1:15PM 2:15PM	Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily
<b>ROTA TO</b>	SAIPAN			1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT # 3101 3102 3103	DEPARTURE 8:15AM 1:45PM 4:45PM	ARRIVAL 8:45AM 2:15PM 5:15PM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily Daily	1210 1211 1212	4:00PM 5:00PM 6:00PM	4:15PM 5:15PM 6:15PM	Daily Daily Daily
3103	4:4JI WI	J:1JI IVI	Daily	TINIAN T	O SAIPAN		
<b>ROTA TO</b>	GUAM			FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT # 3401	DEPARTURE 12:15PM	ARRIVAL 12:45PM	FREQUENCY Daily	2102 2103 2104	7:30AM 8:30AM 9:30AM	7:45AM 8:45AM 9:45AM	Daily Daily Daily
<b>GUAM TO</b>	ROTA			2105 2106	10:30AM 11:30AM	10:45AM 11:45AM	Daily Daily
FLIGHT # 4301	DEPARTURE 1:00PM	ARRIVAL 1:30PM	FREQUENCY Daily	2107 2108 2109	12:30PM 1:30PM 2:30PM	12:45PM 1:45PM 2:45PM	Daily Daily Daily
SAIPAN 1	O TINIAN			2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
FLIGHT # 1201 1202	DEPARTURE 7:00AM 8:00AM	ARRIVAL 7:15AM 8:15AM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily	2111 2112 2113	4:30PM 5:30PM 6:30PM	4:45PM 5:45PM 6:45PM	Daily Daily Daily

## CNMI financial crisis

Editor's Note: The following is the text of a letter Sen. Paul A. Manglona wrote Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

ear Governor Torres:

Two weeks ago you announced that your administration has determined that the CNMI government must immediately implement austerity measures to alleviate the current financial crisis. Thus the implementation of a biweekly 72-hour government work schedule austerity plan that would supposedly save the CNMI millions of dollars in both personnel and operational costs.

According to your Dec. 31, 2018, letter to the presiding officers of the Legislature, our fiscal challenges actually began about a year ago. As your letter stated, due to the decline in revenue collection as previously estimated and the excess expenditures over appropriations contained in Public Law 20-11, the Appropriation and Budget Authority Act of 2018, and the fiscal year 2018 annual report, the CNMI had a deficit of \$25,910,717 for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2018.

Initially, according to Secretary of Finance David Atalig's March 18, 2019, letter to Rep. Ivan Blanco, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, the Executive Branch was simply going to proportionately adjust downward the fiscal year 2019 budget by 4.7 percent or \$12,048,321 to meet the revenue shortfall and, at the same time, implement cost-containment measures for an additional savings of \$10.9 million. On May 02, 2019, you implemented a further reduction of \$17.9 million, in addition to the \$12,048,321, for a total of approximately \$29.9 million. This reduction adjusts the gross CNMI budgetary resources to \$228,175,673 and the fiscal year 2019 budget authority to \$141,506,276.

If our austerity experience in 2010 when we first implemented the unpaid government austerity holiday has taught us any lessons, it would be to reduce the Commonwealth's accumulated deficits through a rational readjustment of expectations and public service priorities. The austerity measure of 2010 was very painful and devastating to everyone. Our employees were suffering 16-hour cuts, unpaid holidays, and payless paydays. Medical referral was almost non-existent and our lone hospital was constantly running out of pharmaceutical supplies. Our schoolchildren were going to classes without textbooks. Department of Public Safety had very few working vehicles with little to no money for fuel. One of the most difficult of all was our experience of losing our government retirement program. After learning that our retirees were guaranteed only 75 percent of their pensions, many government employees then opted out of the government retirement program. Clearly, there is no greater evidence than this collapse of our retirement fund program that the consequences of uncontrolled government expenditures and deficit accumulations can be catastrophic.

It is for this reason that I know we can all agree, Mr. Governor, that reliable factual information such as realistic current revenue estimates, true cost of government operations, deficit reduction schedule, strict financial controls, and honest assessments of program impacts should play a significant role in the formulation of our government fiscal policies.

While it is true that simply having these facts available in our possession will not make hard and painful decisions any easier, taking them into consideration during budget deliberations will result in improved government transparency and accountability, thus having greater public confidence in the legislative process.

As far as the CNMI's realistic current revenue estimates are concerned, the following are some of the questions being raised by our people:

#### a. Casino Business Gross Receipt Tax:

- **1.** What is the reason for the drastic decrease in CBGRT? In fiscal year 2016, Imperial Pacific International paid approximately \$41 million; in fiscal year 2017, \$68 million; in fiscal year 2018, \$44 million; and in 2019, IPI paid a mere \$41,000 since last July. What tax credits were earned by IPI and how much have they claimed in lieu of paying CBGRT?
- **2.** What is the impact of Public Law 20-85 on the government's collection of fiscal year 2019 CBGRT? Did this new law allow IPI to write-off significant loans given to high rollers as bad debts, in full or in part, from casino gross income when figuring its taxable income, thus resulting in tens of millions in CBGRT losses this fiscal year? Is there anything that the Legislature can amend in this new law to have an accountable application pertaining to casino bad debts, such as requiring collateral as security for these loans to be qualified? What verifiable and aggressive steps are being taken by IPI to collect bad debts given that gambling debts are illegal in China? Further, if the significant drop in CBGRT is mainly attributable to P.L. 20-85, then P.L. 20-10 would certainly put 25 percent of our retirees' pension back at serious risk of being suspended.
- **3.** Are CBGRT funds, including those previously appropriated,

presently being intermingled with CNMI general fund revenues, and are being used as part of its cash flow management? If this is true, wouldn't this put the payment of the retirees' 25-percent pension at severe risk since the first \$22 million of annual CBGRT is earmarked and continuously appropriated for the retirement pension obligations pursuant to P.L. 20-10? Similarly, I believe, because of fund intermingling, the awarding of the contract for Public School System's \$400,000 air-conditioning appropriation for Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School and Sinapalo Elementary School recently had to be cancelled. DOF incorrectly determined that there was a lack of funding for the air-conditioning units when it should have stated there was cash flow management dilemma.

- b. Exclusive casino annual license fee of \$15 million: Are these funds, both appropriated and un-appropriated, also being intermingled with the general fund and are being used to alleviate government cash management problems? House Local Bill 21-7 appropriating Department of Finance-certified monies from this source for interisland medical referral and Rota patients subsistence allowance was also recently vetoed because of DOF's mistaken determination of a lack of funding availability when it should have indicated shortage of cash flow.
- c. Development Plan Advisory Committee report: The Casino License Agreement provided for the establishment of DPAC to report regularly to the Governor's Office as to the status of IPI's casino project. What reports have been submitted by DPAC to substantiate IPI's construction progress and expected delays or changes to implementation dates affecting CNMI's economy?
- **d. Marianas Public Land Trust loan:** Technically, if the proposed \$15 million MPLT loan is executed, we are today factoring into our budget equation future MPLT interest income, which are general fund resources that will be transferred from MPLT into the general fund as the interest income are earned each year. Pledging interest income for fiscal year 2020 and beyond will greatly assist in offsetting some of our revenue shortfalls. However, the loan's legality is being questioned because some consider it as deficit spending and borrowing money for government operations.
- **e. FEMA Assistance:** How much public assistance funds (to help defray the costs and losses from Super Typhoon Yutu) is the CNMI expecting to receive from FEMA and, of this pending amount, how much is flexible enough to be made available to offset some of the reductions in our revenue? Also, regarding Super Typhoon Yutu's 2.5 overtime pay, what is the total cost of the government's liability, and if any violations were committed, what actions are we taking to address them?
- **f. \$20** million casino Community Benefit Fund: How much of the annual \$20 million Community Benefit Fund, a required contribution imposed on IPI pursuant to the Casino License Agreement between the CNMI Lottery Commission and IPI, can be used to subsidize the Public School System, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the Department of Public Safety,

## By PAUL A. MANGLONA Special to the Saipan Tribune

Paul A. Manglona is a senator in the 21st Legislature.



the Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services, the Northern Marianas College, and the Settlement Fund minimum annual payment requirements? The next \$20 million contribution is due in October of this year. Has there been any financial audit done on these funds ensuring annual compliance with the casino licensee contribution agreement?

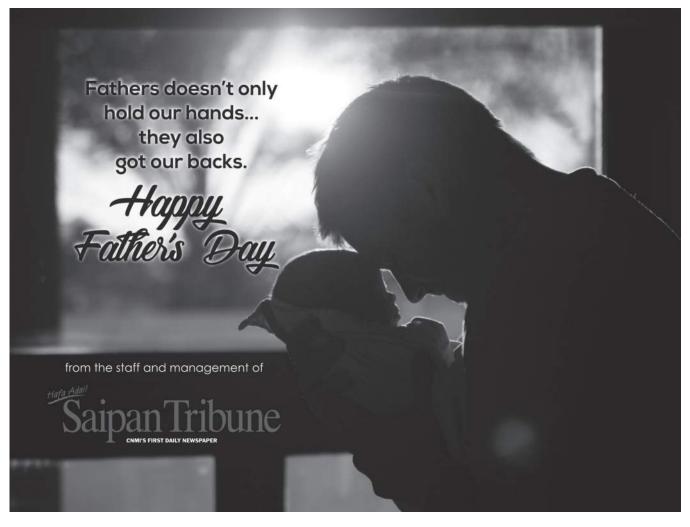
These are all valid concerns that our people want us to address. Having these reliable factual information will greatly assist us in explaining to our people the dire economic and financial situation we are all in and the need to work with the difficult but sensible and credible proposed fiscal plan to be undertaken as we all move forward.

Further, on the government expenditure side, realistic figures on the true cost of operations must be factored into the budget formula. There is no doubt that our practice of omitting or knowingly under-budgeting known, unavoidable costs from the budget—including government utilities, medical referral services, Medicaid matching requirements, CHCC indigent care costs, and PSS' 25 percent earmarking constitutional requirement—has been one of the main reasons for our government's overspending.

Regarding deficit reduction, we need to put into place effective early warning systems at DOF to alert department heads about potential shortfalls and give them an opportunity to initiate timely corrective expenditure actions. This will aid in preventing future deficits, given our uncertain economic conditions and past government cash management history. What good is it to know back in December 2018 that we have a whopping \$25-million deficit if it is too late to do anything about it? Having these warnings will also allow us to better assist critical departments and agencies like CHCC in providing critical health care.

I am confident that, by working together to put our government on a sustainable fiscal course, we have a better chance as policy-makers to have a more orderly readjustment or belt-tightening. Most importantly, as I have mentioned above, our people will be behind us and be more willing to accept the tough austerity measures that we impose upon them because they trust that we are seriously and reasonably confronting the magnitude of our fiscal dilemma with the best interest of the people of the Commonwealth in mind.

In closing, I kindly ask for your assistance along with the Secretary of Finance in providing my office with the information discussed above.



## Most Guam female senators ignore query about abortion views

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)— A majority of female senators on Guam did not respond

to a newspaper's questions

about their positions regard-

ing abortion.

Pacific Daily News reported Wednesday that by the end of the day only three of 10 female lawmakers responded to

questions put to them by the newspaper Tuesday.

Guam law allows abortions up to 13 weeks, but there has not been a physician who offers the procedure on the island since last year. Only Guam Sens. Régine

Biscoe Lee and Amanda Shelton, both Democrats, and Republican Louise Muna, provided responses.

years old are welcome to apply

The summer camp is made possible by the Office of the Governor's Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Division of Youth Services, and the Carolinian AfDCCA Sports and Recreation Division, DCCA Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, PSS Food and Service Program, Commonwealth Health Care Corp., Hinemlu O'hala Para Enteramenti Recovery Center, and Hali' Inaguaiva Systems of Care.

or the CAO at 234-6385. (PR)

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 Phone: (670) 237-5500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962 E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL TERMINALS EXPANSION Project No. CPA-SA-005-19

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the Expansion of the Departure and Arrival Terminals at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at (670) 237-6500 and/or emailed to cpa.engrepticom.com and wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than 5:00 p.m. (CHST) Friday.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than 5:00p.m., FRIDAY, JÜLY 12, 2019. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Mr. Christopher S. Tenorio

Saipan, MP 96950-1055

Executive Director Commonwealth Ports Authority P.O. Box 501055

A prayer rally is scheduled Friday to protest Democratic Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero's plans to find a doctor willing to provide abortions on

the island.

The Archdiocese of Agana has urged Guam Catholics to "respect life from conception to natural death."

## Saipan-based group urges PH govt to investigate fishing vessels' collision

The National Youth Movement for West Philippine Sea is urging the Philippine government to file a diplomatic protest for what it considers a 'dastardly and inhuman" act of the Chinese crew when their vessel hit and sank a Filipino fishing vessel in the West Philippine Sea on June 9, 2019.

A Chinese fishing vessel reportedly hit F/B Gimver 1 while it was anchored within the area of the Recto Bank, which is within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone, on Sunday evening. Instead of helping, the Chinese vessel allegedly left the area immediately and the 22 Filipino crewmen where left exposed to the hazards of the accident and the environment. A Vietnamese fishing vessel in the vicinity rescued all 22 fishermen and brought them to safety.

"We call on the Philippine foreign affairs and national de-

fense officials to act accordingly," said Dr. Celia Lamkin, the Saipan-based global chairperson of the group. "In strongest terms, we denounce the irresponsible action of the crew of the Chinese vessel. They could have at least done something to help and ensure the safety of the affected crew."

NYMWPS called on the Duterte government to investigate and to take the appropriate diplomatic courses of action to ensure that the rights of the affected fishermen are upheld.

The group has been actively advocating for the preservation of territorial sovereignty in the area after the UN Tribunal's decision recognizing Philippine ownership of the contested waters. It has also supported through its many initiatives the Filipino fishermen and their families affected by the refusal of China to respect the decision. (PR)

## Vendors and retailers taking part in the Energy Star rebate program

The CNMI Division of Energy under the Department of Public Works named yesterday the home appliance distributors, retailers and vendors under the CNMI State Energy Program - Energy Star Appliance Rebate Program to encourage energy-efficiency and to promote the importance of energy conservation in the CNMI. They are Chong's Corp., Pacific Home Appliances Corp. (Tinian); Gree Air-conditioning; Hao's Air-conditioning;

Joeten ACE Hardware (Tinian and Rota), Songao Enterprise dba Builders Home Supply (Rota), Pacific Changhong Corp., Marianas Carrier, Hydroaire, and Townhouse Inc.

For additional program information or questions, contact the Division of Energy Office at 664-4480/1 and ask for Vince Attao or Maile Iakopo.

Funding for this program is made possible through a grant by the U.S. Department of En-



Date: June 4, 2019

## **SPECIAL BOARD MEETING NOTICE**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a Special Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Monday, June 17, 2019, at 9:30 a.m. in the MVA Conference Room, Saipan, MP 96950.

#### **MEETING AGENDA**

- 1) Preliminary Matters
  - Call to Order
  - Roll Call
  - Adoption of Agenda
  - Adoption of Minutes
    - a. Regular Board Meeting June 12, 2019
- 2) Public Comments
- 3) **Committee Reports**
- **Old Business** 4) 1. Austerity Measures
  - **Executive Session**
- Miscellaneous/Announcements
- 7) Adjournment
- Marian Aldan-Pierce Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

## Registration open for free summer camp

The Office of the Governor's Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Division of Youth Services, in partnership with the Carolinian Affairs Office, is hosting the annual Summer Youth Empowerment

The first session will take place at the Tanapag Youth Center, from July 8 to 18, from 7:30am to 11:30am, followed by the second session at the San Isidro Youth Learning Center, from July 22 to Aug. 1, from 7:30am to 11:30am. Participants can register for only one campsite, must be 6 to 12 years of age, and must complete the registration requirements to confirm their spot. Capacity for each campsite is 65 persons.

In addition, youth ages 13-17

for volunteer work by completing the application requirements and attending the mandatory orientation on July 2 at 9am, at the DYS office in Chalan Piao.

fairs Office, in partnership with

For more information or to get copies of required forms, call the DYS office at 237-1016

#### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY



Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: <u>opa.admin@pticom.com</u> •
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING** The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Tuesday, June 18, 2019, at 9:30 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom located at the Airport Fire Station, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on the island of Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

## <u>AGENDA</u>

- PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  - 1. Call to Order 2. Roll Call 3. Adoption of Agenda
- PUBLIC COMMENT(S)
- CORRESPONDENCES
- COMMITTEE REPORTS

  1. Financial Affairs Committee
  - 3. Seaport Facilities Committee 4. Personnel Affairs Committee

4. Adoption of Minutes (May 10, 2019)

- OLD BUSINESS
- GPPC, Inc. Lease
  - Commonwealth Utilities Corporation-CPA
  - Omnibus Settlement Agreement
  - Micronesian Air Express Accounts Receivables
    Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Concession

  - KIMCO Payment/Power Meter Installation Draft Fiscal Year 2020 Budget
- Resolution for Bank of Guam Transfer of Investments VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- Legal Counsel Reports: Legal matters/Litigation
   MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the

- 2. Airport Facilities Committee EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- **NEW BUSINESS** Bank Signatories

  - a. Scope of Concession/Determination of Procurement Process b. Proposed Evaluation Plan

KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS Chairwoman, Board of Directors June 13, 2018

## /s/ for CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO

Send information to:

## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CNMI GOVERNMENT Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (679) 237-5600 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

# REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES SAIPAN AIRPORT COMMUTER TERMINAL Project No. CPA-SA-007-19

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the demolition of the existing and construction of a new Commuter Terminal Building at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal

Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at (670) 237-6500 and/or emailed to cpa.engrepticom.com and wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, June 21, 2019, 5:00

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later by 5:00p.m., MONDAY, JULY 8, 2019. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:

Mr. Christopher S. Tenorio Executive Director Commonwealth Ports Authority P.O. Box 501055 Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ for CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO

Date: June 4, 2019

#### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-65001 - Fax (670) 234-65962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

## AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**Procurement and Installation of a Rotating Beacon** Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Project No. CPA-SA-006-19

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies to remove

and dispose of existing rotating beacon and procure and install a brand-new rotating beacon, climbing device, basket, etc. at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Proposals are to include procurement, installation and testing of the new beacon with a 1-year warranty and an additional 1-year preventive maintenance services. The RFP package including the scope of work (SOW) and appendices are available for pick up at no charge at the CPA Administration Office. Project approach and cost must be within the parameters

offeror's proposal package. Proposal submission requirements and contract details are outlined in A site inspection will be conducted on <u>Monday, June 17, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.</u> in order to assess the condition and area and determine equipment and materials needed for the installation. Prospective proposers can meet the Saipan Airport Manager, Mr. William Camacho, at the

of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal

that exceeded what is required by the SOW, will be grounds for immediate disqualification of the

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description tothe office of the Executive Director. Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than 5:00 p.m., MONDAY, JULY 8, 2019.

Questions and inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals must be submitted in writing and may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to the Saipan Airport Manager, Mr. William Camacho, at bcamacho@cpa.gov.mp.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO

June 12, 2019

## Camp beginning July.

FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2019 **19** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Business

## Businesses showing discontent with Trump's trade policies

President Donald Trump's aggressive and wildly unpredictable use of tariffs is spooking American business groups, which have long formed a potent force in his

Republican Party.

Corporate America was blindsided last week when Trump threatened to impose crippling taxes on Mexican imports in a push to stop the flow of Central American migrants into the United States.

The two sides reached a truce Friday after Mexico agreed to do more to stop the

migrants. But by Monday, Trump was again threatening the tariffs if Mexico didn't abide by an unspecified commitment, to "be revealed in the not too distant future."

Such whipsawing is now a hallmark of Trump's trade policy. The president repeatedly threatens tariffs, sometimes imposes them, sometimes suspends them, sometimes threatens them again. Or drops them.

Business groups, already uncomfortable with Trump's attempts to stem immigration, are struggling to fig-

ure out where to stand in the fast-shifting political climate. They have happily supported his corporate tax cuts and his moves to loosen environmental and other regulations. But many are concerned about the president's mercurial approach to tariffs.

The Business Roundtable, an association of CEOs, opposes the use of tariffs and has made the case to the administration about the risks they pose to economic growth. But Trump has remained a fervent advocate of the import taxes anyway.

"They are going to do what they do-it's not up to us," Jamie Dimon, chairman of the Business Roundtable and CEO of JPMorgan Chase, said at a gathering of reporters Wednesday.

"Business is losing," said Rick Tyler, a Republican strategist and frequent Trump critic. "He calls himself 'Mr. Tariff man.' He's proud of it... It's bad news for the party. It's bad news for the free market."

Just last week, the sprawling network led by the billionaire industrialist Charles Koch announced the creation of several political action committees focused on policy—including one devoted to free trade—to back Republicans or Democrats who break with Trump's trade policies. A powerful force in Republican politics, the network is already a year into a "multi-year multi-million dollar" campaign to promote the dangers of tariff and protectionist trade policies.

The Chamber of Commerce, too, is in the early phases of disentangling itself from the Republican Party after decades of loyalty. The

\$29 million largely to help Republicans in the 2016 election, announced earlier this year that it would devote more time and attention to Democrats on Capitol Hill while raising the possibility of supporting Democrats in 2020. Few expect the Chamber or

Chamber, which spent at least

business-backed groups like the Koch network to suddenly embrace Democrats in a significant way. But even a subtle shift to withhold support from vulnerable Republican candidates could make a difference in 2020.

## Nevada law prevents most employers from rejecting pot-users

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Two backers of a pioneering Nevada law to prevent employers from rejecting job-seekers based on a pre-employment marijuana test cast the effort Wednesday as an anti-discrimination measure in a state where recreational pot sales are booming and rules about legal marijuana consumption are evolving.

The law, which goes into effect in January, won't ban testing job applicants for cannabis

chemicals, Democratic Assembly members Dina Neal and Edgar Flores said. But it will prohibit many employers from using the results to turn someone away.

"We needed to ensure we were providing safeguards for marijuana users who are following state law and are trying to get jobs." Flores said.

Neal said the law does not liberalize marijuana use in the workplace, where employers can and do prohibit drug or alcohol use.

It instead aims to address what Neal called "a moral and social dilemma" caused by the ability to detect trace amounts of marijuana in blood or urine weeks or even months after people ingest pot during off-work hours.

"I don't condone marijuana use," Neal said. "But I don't want unfairness and discrimination. We were saying marijuana dispensaries can sell to people, but then the people couldn't work. We had to do something."

The law, signed by Democratic Gov. Steve Sisolak a week ago, contains broad exceptions for employers who declare they're seeking people for safety positions such as firefighters, emergency medical technicians or federally licensed drivers.

"We want to make sure we have safety conscious individuals," said Paul Enos, chief executive of the Nevada Trucking Association and one of several business representatives who testified at the Legislature to shape and revise the law.

He said that in his industry, not just truckers but mechanics and dispatchers could be considered safety positions.

"The bill gives employers a tremendous amount of discretion to determine whether or not the position they are hiring for could impact the safety of others," Enos said. "They can still use positive test for

marijuana to deny the job."

The law makes it unlawful for would-be employers in Nevada "to fail or refuse to hire" a prospective employee whose screening test results indicate the presence of marijuana.

Employees who test positive can contest the results and seek a re-test, at their expense.

Even with the exceptions, a National Organization to Reform Marijuana Laws official said the law puts Nevada ahead of other states in addressing marijuana and employment issues.



## ITB19-GOV-090

#### Rota High School Renovation and Conversion to Office Spaces

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the 702 Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funded by Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Department of Interior , (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed bids for the Rota High School Renovation and Conversion to Office Spaces on Rota, Con

The project package will be available on June 10, 2019 at the Office of Management & Budget, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol The project peaces with se various control to 1,000 at the control that project peaces with the various peaces with the variou Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001 and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees

performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commo There will be a pre-bid conference for this project on **Wednesday, June 19, 2019, 10:00 am ChST** at the project site in Songsong Village, Rota, CNMI. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Ms. Nerissa Benavente in writing by e-mail: nerissa.cip@gmail.com, on or before **Wednesday, June 26, 2019** to the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to inquiries will be

Sealed bids must be marked ITB19-GOV-090 Rota High School Renovation and Conversion to Office Spaces. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies

of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST July 5, 2019, Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST July 10, 2019 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidof.net. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 5, 2019 and the bid documents must be received no later than July 10, 2019. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan at 10:30 a.m. ChST July 5, 2019. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at 10:00

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit-

A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond

obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:

- US Government Securities
- Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 180 calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

> Ralph DLG, Torres Herman S. Sablan, Directo CNMI Procurement & Supply





## **Military Veterans Town Hall Meeting on:**

Tuesday, June 18, 2019 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at the Veterans Affairs Office 1364 Anatahan Dr. Capital Hill, Saipan

**Town Hall Meeting to discuss current and** all Military Veterans related issues.

> If you have questions contact: **Vivian S. Taitano at (670) 664-2651**

**20** FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Nation

## Mothers: Air Force failed when child sex assaults reported

By JUSTIN PRITCHARD and **FOSTER KLUG** 

ASSOCIATED PRESS

To the mothers, the 13-yearold boy appeared largely unsupervised as he roamed among the clusters of townhomes on the U.S. Air Force base in Japan.

It would have been unremarkable—the neighborhood was full of kids—except that young girls were starting to report the boy had led them from play and molested them.

"We were like, 'How is this OK?" the mother of one 5-year-old girl told The Associated Press, which granted her anonymity to protect her

daughter's privacy. She locked her kids inside.

The first girl to report had to wait six days for officials on the largest Air Force installation in the Pacific to provide counseling. The mothers did not sense much urgency from Air Force criminal investigators either. They told the families they'd waited 13 days to meet the boy's father.

By then, mothers had identified five girls, ages 2 to 7, who said the boy had taken them to some trees or a playground or his house. Another five kids would allege abuse soon after.

"We come here, and it takes the worst cases that you can imagine to find out that

to support your children," the 5-year-old's mother said. "There's a feeling of complete distrust."

This was not supposed to happen again. Last summer, Congress ordered the Defense Department to overhaul how it handles allegations of sexual assault among the tens of thousands of military kids who live or attend school on U.S. bases worldwide.

Yet the case at Kadena Air Base began unfolding in February—six months after President Donald Trump signed those landmark reforms.

For decades, justice has been elusive on American bas-

you don't have the services es when the children of service members sexually assaulted each other. Help for victims and accountability for offenders was rare in the nearly 700 reports over a decade that an AP investigation documented.

> The new law required reforms across the Pentagon. The school system it runs for service members' kids had to create new student protections. The Family Advocacy Program, whose social service counselors would turn victims away, must review reports. The Office of the Secretary of Defense will track cases and create a policy for how to handle them.

The reforms are now roll-

ing out, and the rollout has been uneven.

The Air Force has not drafted new guidelines. Instead, it is "reserving decision on adding or amending policy until publication of a Department of Defense policy," according to spokesman Mai. Nicholas Mercurio.

Like other armed services, Air Force representatives are helping form that policy. A Pentagon spokeswoman could not say when it will be pub-

Mercurio called the Japan case "an extremely difficult situation." He said the Air Force has scrambled to deliver "helping resources to the families involved while remaining focused on protecting the rights and privacies of all parties and preserving the integrity of the ongoing investigation."

ACROSS THE NATION

ex-girlfriend's slaying

JEFFERSONVILLE, Ind.

(AP)—An Indiana judge

Man can reject insanity defense in

Kadena Air Base spokeswoman Lt. Col. Christy Stravolo noted that the 13-year-old boy has returned to the U.S. with his family. That happened within several weeks of the first allegations. Attempts to reach his parents were unsuccessful.

The Army didn't wait to follow the Pentagon's lead. It wrote its own policy.

That March 21 directive mandates both a criminal investigation and victim assistance through Family Advocacy, which now must inform counterparts on other bases when an offender's family transfers.

Because military doesn't apply to family members, justice must come under civilian law. So cases on Army bases will be referred to state or local district attorneys who, unlike federal prosecutors, have juvenile justice systems.



In this Nov. 16, 2017 photo made available by the U.S. Air Force, a fighter plane takes-off from Kadena Air Base, Japan.

has ruled a man accused of killing his ex-girlfriend and eating parts of her body can reject an insanity defense. Joseph Oberhansley is accused of killing and mutilating 46-year-old Tammy Jo Blanton in Jeffersonville in 2014. He faces trial on Aug. 19. Oberhansley filed a motion last month to withdraw the insanity defense, which defense attorneys promoted in January. The 38-year-old Oberhansley told the judge he felt using the defense would admit guilt and is unlikely to work. In a ruling filed Tuesday, Clark County Circuit Court Judge Vicki Carmichael used related case law to support her finding on the importance of allowing a defendant to make decisions on key elements of the case. Defense attorney Brent Westerfeld de-

#### Sheriff: 2 dead in small plane crash in Louisiana

ing Wednesday.

clined to comment on the rul-

OPELOUSAS, La. (AP)— Authorities have confirmed the deaths of two people in a small plane crash on a river levee in Louisiana.

St. Landry Parish Sheriff Bobby Guidroz tells news outlets the single-engine plane crashed Wednesday beside the Atchafalaya (ah-CHAF'-uh-leye-uh) River. Killed were the pilot, 49-year-old Kirk Bellard, and a passenger, 38-year-old

Marcus D. Guidry, both of Breaux Bridge, according to the sheriff. Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Lynn Lunsford says the pilot and passenger were the only ones aboard. Lunsford says the plane went down shortly after midday under unknown circumstances. The National Transportation Safety Board has been notified.

#### Oklahoma base set for migrant site was WWII internment camp **OKLAHOMA CITY**

(AP)—A U.S. Army base in Oklahoma that the federal government selected as a temporary shelter for migrant children also held hundreds in a Japanese internment camp during World War II. Historical data from the National Park Service and private organizations show Fort Sill was among at least 14 Army and Department of Justice facilities nationwide where Japanese Americans and Japanese immigrants were interred. The Army's War Relocation Authority held about 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans in "relocation centers" during the war with Japan. The president of Densho, an organization that documents history of the camps, says sites like Fort Sill should be closed, not reused. The Office of Refugee Resettlement plans to house up to 1,400 migrant children at Fort Sill, near Lawton, Oklahoma . The base also served as a temporary shelter for unaccompanied migrant

children in 2014.

## Chopper crash raises old question: How to secure NYC's skies

**NEW YORK** (AP)—It was an accident, not terrorism, but this week's helicopter crash on the roof of a midtown Manhattan skyscraper has raised serious security concerns because of the ease with which the chopper ventured into one of the nation's most tightly restricted no-fly zones.

Some of the questions being posed are the same ones that bedeviled authorities after 9/11 nearly two decades ago: Are they able to react quickly enough to a rogue aircraft? What can they realistically do? Is scrambling fighter jets and shooting down the intruder really feasible over densely populated city streets?

Experts say the answers are not so reassuring.

"If someone had bad intent and they took off from the heliport and made a beeline to Trump Tower, none of the good guys are going to get in the air fast enough to stop him," said Steven Bucci, a

retired Army Special Forces officer who help design the post-9/11 system to guard U.S. airspace.

Ever since President Donald Trump's election in 2016, a one-mile (1.6-kilometer) radius around Trump Tower has been designated National Defense Airspace, one of the highest-level restrictions, requiring express permission from the Federal Aviation Administration for any flights below 3,000 feet (914 meters) and constant radio communication with air traffic control.

Pilots who don't adhere to the restriction, according to the FAA, may be "intercepted, detained and interviewed by law enforcement" and "the United States government may use deadly force ... if it is determined that the aircraft poses an imminent security threat."

Investigators say the pilot who died in the crash Monday afternoon just a few blocks from Trump Tower did not seek such permission and didn't contact air traffic control because he wasn't required to do so, given his intended route, which was supposed to take him around Manhattan to the helicopter's home base in New Jersey.

After taking off from a heliport on Manhattan's East Side, the chopper instead strayed over midtown in heavy rain and thick fog and slammed into the roof of the 750-foot (229-meter) AXA Equitable building during a flight that lasted 11 minutes.

An official who was briefed on the situation and spoke on condition of anonymity because the federal investigation is still going on said that 58-year-old commercial pilot Tim McCormack radioed just before the crash that he was lost and trying to get back to the heliport.

Whether anyone noticed the aircraft's intrusion into the no-fly zone before the crash is unclear. The FAA and National Transportation Safety Board of-

ficials said that question is under investigation. The New York Police Department has a squadron of helicopters that patrol the city's airspace, but none were in the air at the time of the crash.

Mayor Bill de Blasio is among those calling for tighter regulation of helicopter flights over the city.

"I think the FAA needs to look at this very carefully," he said on CNN. "Do they need to toughen up their rules or put more security or monitoring of the situation to make sure something like this couldn't happen again?"

The airspace over certain areas—key government buildings and defense installations, for example—has long been off-limits to planes and helicopters. The use of temporary flight restrictions, or TFRs, grew rapidly after the Sept. 11 attacks and came to include bans over major sporting events and areas around presidential visits.

FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2019 **21** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Asia

## PH slams sinking of boat by suspected China vessel

**Philippines** (AP)—The Philippine defense

secretary said Wednesday that an anchored Filipino fishing boat sank in the disputed South China Sea after being hit by a suspected Chinese vessel which then abandoned the 22 Filipino crewmen.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana called for an investigation of the June 9 sinking at Reed Bank off the western Philippine province of Palasteps be taken to prevent a repeat of the incident.

It's a delicate development in the long-contested waters, which are regarded as a potential flashpoint in Asia. Tensions have escalated in recent years after China transformed seven disputed reefs into islands which can serve as forward military bases and can intimidate rival claimant states.

The Philippine coast guard said

wan and asked that diplomatic it was checking whether Chinese fishermen were involved or those from other neighboring countries like Vietnam and if the collision was intentional.

> There was no immediate comment from Chinese officials.

The 22 Filipino crewmen of the sunken F/B Gimver 1 were rescued by a Vietnamese vessel. A Philippine navy frigate which was patrolling the area later helped secure them, Lorenzana said in a statement.

"We condemn in the strongest terms the cowardly action of the Chinese fishing vessel and its crew for abandoning the Filipino crew," Lorenzana said. "This is not the expected action from a responsible and friendly people." He said the F/B Gimver 1 had been anchored "when it was hit by the Chinese fishing vessel."

Lorenzana thanked the Vietnamese crew for saving the Filipinos.

He revealed the incident after about 300 protesters burned a mock Chinese flag and yelled anti-China slogans in a rally outside the Chinese Consulate in Manila's Makati financial district. The mostly left-wing activists timed their protest for Philippine Independence Day.

A regional military spokesman, Lt. Col. Stephen Penetrante, said the incident at Reed Bank, which happened at night, appeared "like a hit and run," with the vessel immediately moving away after hitting the Filipino boat.

There has been a recent history of Chinese ships blocking Philippine military and civilian vessels at Reed Bank and nearby Second Thomas Shoal. where Philippine marines keep watch on board a longmarooned Philippine navy ship while being constantly watched by Chinese coast guard ships in a years-long standoff.

**ASIAN BRIEFS** 

#### Japan premier warns **US. Iran 'accidental** conflict' possible

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe traveled to Tehran on Wednesday to warn that an "accidental conflict" could be sparked amid heightened tensions between Iran and the U.S., a message that came hours after Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels attacked a Saudi airport, wounding 26 people. Abe's trip is the highest-level effort yet to de-escalate the crisis as Tehran appears poised to break the 2015 nuclear deal it struck with world powers, an

accord that the Trump administration pulled out of last year. It's also the first visit of a sitting Japanese premier in the 40 years since the Islamic Revolution. But success may prove difficult for Abe, as the Houthi rebel attack on Saudi Arabia's Abha regional airport underscored. The attack is just the latest in a wave of rebel drone and missile attacks targeting the kingdom, which has been mired in a yearslong war in Yemen that has killed an estimated 60,000 people and pushed the Arab world's poorest nation to the brink of famine. Iran is threatening to resume enrich-

ing uranium closer to weaponsgrade level on July 7 if European allies fail to offer it new terms. While President Donald Trump says he wants to talk to Tehran, the U.S. has piled on sanctions that have seen Iran's rial currency plummet along with its crucial oil exports.

#### **Rebels ambush Indian** soldiers in Kashmir, 6 combatants dead

SRINAGAR, India (AP)— Rebels fighting against Indian rule in disputed Kashmir launched an attack on paramilitary soldiers on Wednesday, killing five, officials said. One

militant also died in the fighting. At least two militants in a car approached soldiers patrolling streets in the southern town of Anantnag and jumped out while firing at them, police said. The soldiers shot back and in the exchange of gunfire five soldiers and a militant were killed. A police officer and two out of three injured soldiers were reported to be in critical condition. Police and soldiers cordoned off the area and were looking for the second militant. Both India and Pakistan claim the divided territory of Kashmir in its entirety. Rebels have been fighting against Indian control

since 1989.

#### Journalists beaten, arrested in northern **Indian state**

LUCKNOW, India (AP)— Two policemen were suspended on Wednesday for beating a TV journalist and damaging his equipment after he reported on unlicensed vendors at a railroad station in northern India, a state government official said. It was the third incident involving journalists in Uttar Pradesh state in the past week. State spokesman Awanish Awasthi said the railway police officers were suspended after the journalist complained that he had been attacked Tuesday near the Shamli train station. On Saturday, a freelance journalist was arrested for a tweet about the state's top elected official, a member of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. India's top court ordered his release on Tuesday. On Sunday, the editor and producer of a TV news channel were arrested after they criticized the state government on a talk show. Hemant Tiwari, vice president of the Indian Federation of Working Journalists, demanded the sacking of the policemen.



## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055 Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962 E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

#### TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the <u>Benjamin Taisacan Manglona</u> <u>International airport perimeter security fence replacement - repackaging</u>, commonwealth of the northern mariana islands, aip no.: 3-69-0003-27/XX.

One original and three copies shall be submitted in a sealed envelope or container and delivered to the office of the CPA Executive Director. Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, on or before 2:00 PM, FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2019, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of Rota International Airport Perimeter Security Fence Replacement, all in accordance with the plans and specifications.

Bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Commonwealth Ports Authority's Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the departure terminal, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY U.S. DOLLARS (\$150,00) for each set of plan documents in electronic form (DVD). This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check o U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from

The contract period for construction of the project shall be **TWO SEVENTY FORTY (270) CALENDAR DAYS.** Liquidated damages in the amount of **THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS PER CALENDAR DAYS (\$300.00)** shall be assessed the contractor if the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract time without excuse.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Rota Ports Manager's Office, Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport at 10:00 a.m., Friday, June 28, 2019 to explain

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, seven (7) days prior to the date designated above for the bid

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low hidder is found not to be "responsible" their hid will be rejected and the next lowest hidder will be evaluated

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by CPA. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the DVD.

It is the Contractors' responsibility to verify and ensure that the drawings are printed without distortion after printing which may affect sheet size and scale of the Prints shall be the actual in

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than TEN PERCENT (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP-70 of the specifications. The bidder shall take windreders right. A copy of the performance in the receital cabon rage rates betermination is included in section of Pool in the specifications, into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bild proposal. The EEC requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bild proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth

All bidders shall comply with all Federal requirements under this Federally funded procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Government wide Debarment and Suspension and Government wide Requirements for Drug-frei Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO CPA Executive Director

Date: June 11, 2019



## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055 Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962 E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

## NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PERIMETER FENCE REPLACEMENT, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, CPA-TA-001-19.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and submitted to the office of the Executive Director. Commonwealth Ports Authority, at Francisco Č. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at 2:00 PM, THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2019, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly

The Project, in general, consists of Tinian International Airport Perimeter Fence Replacement all in accordance with the plans and specifications,

Bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$150.00)** for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project shall be TWO HUNDRED FORTY (240) CALENDAR DAYS. Liquidated damages in the amount of TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS PER CALENDAR DAYS (\$200.00) shall be assessed the contractor if the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract time without excuse A pre-bid conference will be held at the Tinian Ports Manager's Office, Tinian International Airport at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, June 27, 2019 to explain and clarify any

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director. Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, seven (7) days prior to the date designated above for the bid

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the DVD.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP70 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO equirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Common

All bidders shall comply with all Federal requirements under this Federally funded procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Government wide Debarment and Suspension and Government wide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS ALITHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO CPA Executive Directo

**22** FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## World

## 5-year-old dies of Ebola as outbreak crosses Congo border

KASINDI, Congo (AP)—A 5-year-old boy vomiting blood became the first cross-border victim in the current Ebola outbreak on Wednesday, while his 3-year-old brother and grandmother tested positive for the disease that has killed nearly 1,400 people in Congo.

The outbreak's spread into Uganda prompted the World Health Organization to revisit whether the second-largest Ebola epidemic in history should be declared a global health emergency. A WHO expert committee meets on Friday. Such declarations almost always boost attention and donor funding.

The boy's mother had taken him and his brother from Uganda into Congo, where her father was ill. WHO said he died of Ebola, and officials believe those who mourned him became infected, too.

The family then crossed back into Uganda via an unguarded foot path, bypassing official border crossings where health workers have been screening millions of travelers since the outbreak was declared in August.

Authorities in both countries now vow to step up border security.

Experts have long feared Ebola could spread to neighboring countries because of rebel attacks and community resistance hampering containment work in eastern Congo, one of the world's most turbulent regions. The virus can spread quickly via close con-



tact with bodily fluids of those infected and can be fatal in up to 90% of cases.

The 5-year-old boy's mother and grandmother, along with several other children, were stopped at a border post before crossing into Uganda. A dozen of them already showed symptoms of Ebola.

Congo's health ministry said those 12 were put in an isolation center, but in fact they were told to remain where they were staying until transport was found to an Ebola

treatment unit, Dr. Dominique Kabongo, a local coordinator of response teams, told The Associated Press.

Instead, six family members quietly crossed into Uganda.

"Many people are evading (border) customs and using small footpaths and it is difficult for us to follow the contacts," Kabongo said.

On arrival in Uganda, where authorities had been alerted by Congolese colleagues, the boy received treatment while relatives were isolated and tested. The boy's uncle is among seven suspected cases now identified in Uganda.

On the Congo side, five family members who did not cross into Uganda have tested positive for Ebola, the health ministry said.

Health teams in Uganda "are not panicking," Henry Mwebesa, the national director of health services, told the AP. He cited the East African nation's experience battling previous outbreaks of Ebola and other hemorrhagic fevers.

People crossing the border have their temperature taken to check for symptoms of Ebola, at the border crossing near Kasindi, eastern Congo Wednesday, June 12, 2019, just across from the Ugandan town of Bwera.

This outbreak "is not going to go beyond" the boy's family in Uganda, he added.

While officials vowed to close unauthorized crossings, an AP reporter in the border area where the family crossed saw surveillance teams patrolling the Ugandan side. Some footpaths, however, remained unguarded. Some people wade across the shallow Lubiriha River.

The "stubbornness of Congolese" is a challenge in screening, a Ugandan Red Cross official, Francis Tumwine, told the AP at one border crossing last week. "They have failed to understand that Ebola is there, they think that it is witchcraft which is killing them."

# Venezuela's massive blackout sparks boom in generator sales

MARACAIBO, Venezuela (AP)—Wilfido Briñez considers himself lucky to live with the roar of electric generators outside his front door in Maracaibo, Venezuela's second largest city and ground zero for the nation's rolling blackouts.

While many of his neighbors sit in the dark waiting for the lights to come back on, the university professor charges his phone and grades students' papers on his laptop. Food in his refrigerator stays cold and the air conditioner hums.

"The decibel level is quite high," said Briñez, speaking above three gas-fueled motors. "Either we have noise or we don't have electricity."

As Venezuela's crisis deepens, the sale of electric generators is one of the few growth industries in the once-wealthy oil nation, whose residents struggle to get through each day as public services crumble.

Millions of poor live at the mercy of Venezuela's unstable power grid, but middle- and upper-class residents able to scrape together enough dollars are buying backup generators in an attempt to regain a normal life.

Even this solution isn't foolproof. Gasoline shortages are creeping across the country, imperiling access to fuel for newly bought generators.

"Here, things have gone from bad to worse," said Junior Cansas, who owns an electronics shop in Maracaibo. "That's why people are buying generators."

Venezuela holds the world's largest oil reserves as well as vast water resources to fill hydroelectric dams. It long had a state-of-the-art power grid that sold excess electricity to neighboring countries.

However, the country's growing dysfunction crossed a dark milestone on March 7 when a catastrophic power failure left most of its 30 million residents without electricity for days. It even reached the capital of Caracas, knocking out communications, water services and public transportation.

That led to a scramble for generators by residents and small businesses fearing another big outage could hit without warning, plunging their lives once again into chaos.

Some have opted for small units costing a few hundred dollars that can pump out enough power to run a few appliances at a time, such as using the lights and water heater for a shower.

A household living with all the amenities requires a large generator that can cost upward of \$1,000—a small fortune in a country where the typical worker earns \$6.50 a month.

## US urges Sudan's protesters and army to resume talks

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)—Activists called off a general strike and civil disobedience campaign as more businesses reopened and traffic returned to its normal bustle on Wednesday in Sudan's capital of Khartoum, as the U.S. and Ethiopia stepped up efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis — following last week's deadly clampdown by secu-

rity forces on pro-democracy

demonstrators.

Security forces violently dispersed the main protest sit-in on June 3 in Khartoum, killing over 100 people in the capital and across Sudan in a sweeping crackdown, according to protest organizers. It was an alarming turn in the two-month standoff between the protest movement and the military, which removed President Omar al-Bashir from power in April amid a popular uprising against his rule.

The Forces for Declaration of Freedom and Change,

which represents the protesters' demand for civilian rule, called on people to return to work across Sudan, after the three-day general strike, on late Tuesday.

Its decision reflected a growing desire for the protest leaders and the ruling military council to avoid a further escalation, after a week of violence.

"We are highly optimistic that the negotiations will be resumed, and things will be back to normal and they will achieve an agreement," said Yousef Hassan, a teacher from Khartoum.

Activists, however, took to social media to criticize the FDFC's decision, declaring that protest leaders, in calling off the strike, had diminished their ability to pressure the generals to give up power.

"The problem was not calling off the disobedience, but was its abrupt suspension. It seemed that you are giving orders to people," said Ham-

mour Ziada, a Sudanese novelist and activist.

According to protest leaders, theirs was a practical decision. The general strike was successful on its first day, Sunday, but the campaign had lost momentum by Monday and Tuesday, they said.

The move came amid intensifying efforts by the United States and neighboring Ethiopia to end the standoff between the two sides. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed set out to revive the negotiations on his visit to Khartoum on Friday.

Ethiopia's Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday that the military council and the FDFC had agreed to resume their talks soon, "in good-faith to iron-out the remaining outstanding points," including setting up a government council to run Sudan during a set transition period.

The statement added that all previous deals between the generals and protest leaders,

despite the break in talks earlier this month, have been restored. These would include a three-year transition period, a Cabinet appointed by the protester leaders, and a legislative body with a civilian majority from the FDFC.

The ministry said both sides also agreed to refrain from inflammatory rhetoric and deescalate tensions, and that the military council would to take confidence-building measures including the release of political prisoners.

The United States, meanwhile, announced the appointment of a special envoy for Sudan to promote a democratic resolution. State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said retired veteran diplomat Donald Booth, who previously served as U.S. special envoy for Sudan and South Sudan, had started his job by accompanying the top U.S. diplomat for Africa Tibor Nagy on a visit to Khartoum late Wednesday.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2019 **23** 

## Off the Wall

## OFFBEAT BRIEFS

## Motorcyclist hit by lightning in Florida crashes, dies

**DELAND, Fla.** (AP)—The Florida Highway Patrol says lightning struck a motorcyclist on the helmet as he drove on an interstate in Florida, causing a crash and his death. The agency said in a news release that 45-year-old Benjamin Austin Lee of Charlotte, North Carolina, died Sunday afternoon on Interstate 95 near Daytona Beach. Lightning burned his helmet. He was pronounced dead at the scene. Florida troopers say an off-duty Virginia state trooper witnessed the lightning strike and its aftermath.

## Police: Don't call us with Taco Bell complaint

SLIDELL, La. (AP)—A police department in Louisiana is reminding people that it's there to serve, just not handle customer service complaints about Taco Bell. The Slidell Police Department posted on Facebook Monday that someone called to complain that a local Taco Bell had run out of "both hard and soft taco shells." The department says while it was a "travesty," it can't do anything about it. The department hoped the taco shell stock has been replenished.

## Police surround house for burglary, find deer instead

LUFKIN, Texas (AP)—Police who surrounded a house in eastern Texas because they thought they had a burglary in progress found a deer instead. The homeowner called Lufkin police early Thursday after she heard glass breaking. The woman hid in a closet and realized she had left her weapon in the kitchen. Officers were worried it could end up in the hands of the suspect. Video posted on Facebook shows officers entering the home, yelling, "Police! Let me see your hands!" Police say as the officers rounded a corner, they came "face to face with one very frightened doe." An officer shouted "It's a deer! It's a deer! It's a deer! The officers used chairs to shoo the deer out the door

## **120** whoopie pies are missing after fairground booth break-in

SKOWHEGAN, Maine (AP)—Apparently hungry and thirsty vandals have trashed a fairgrounds booth in Maine, stealing 120 whoopie pies and drinking half a gallon of iced tea. John Youney, a director of the Skowhegan Lions Club, tells the Morning Sentinel that a refrigerator full of cookies was also emptied and that plastic gloves and silverware littered the floor. Youney says there's about \$1,000 worth of damage or stolen goods. The group discovered the break-in at their Skowhegan fairground booth Sunday morning and believes it occurred overnight Saturday. Youney says whoever is involved can confess and work off their crime by assisting the club with its volunteer work.

## New Mexico city famous for UFO event trademarks new logo

ROSWELL, N.M. (AP)—A New Mexico city known for its proximity to arguably the most famous UFO event in the United States has trademark protection for its alien-inspired logo. The city of Roswell said Tuesday it received its requested trademark certification from the New Mexico Secretary of State's Office. The new bright green logo includes the silhouette of a flying saucer within the letter "R." The trademark will be in effect for 10 years and can be renewed when it nears expiration. Officials say the logo is protected from unauthorized use by other entities or individuals. That will ensure it remains unique to Roswell, providing an identifiable graphic that people will associate with the city. The site of a supposed UFO crash in 1947, Roswell has an annual extraterrestrial festival that draws thousands.

## Mississippi kangaroo found after 2 days 'on the hop'

GULFPORT, Miss. (AP)—A missing kangaroo has been found after two days "on the hop" along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Cody Breland and Gulfport police tell news outlets Jojo was found about 1 a.m. Friday in a Gulfport neighborhood. Breland owns Wild Acres Wildlife Photography & Mobile Petting Zoo. He says he was showing animals to children on Wednesday morning when Jojo got scared by heavy rain and jumped away. The kangaroo is now back home with big brother Mercury. Breland wrote on Facebook that Jojo had the "vacation of his life" while volunteers, police and animal control officers looked for him. He plans to let admirers visit with Jojo on Saturday at a Gulfport restaurant.

## Lottery win delays summer job talk for college student

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—A father-son talk about a summer job is on the backburner after a New Jersey college student won a \$1 million lottery prize. Kristopher Chrysanthopoulos' dad had invited him to lunch to talk to the 20-year-old about the need for a summer job. During the ride, he decided to check his May 28 Mega Millions tickets. That's when he looked at his father and said, "Dad, I've got five numbers!" Dad thought maybe it was a prank so they stopped at the nearest lottery retailer to validate the ticket, which was worth \$1 million. The Rider University student says he would like to take his family on vacation and then put the rest of the money into savings. As for the summer job? That's a work in progress.

## Lithuanian circus owner releases bear he took 'hostage'

VILNIUS, Lithuania (AP)—Lithuanian police say a private circus owner has released a bear from a cage after a standoff with police trying to take the animal away. Authorities wanted the bear confiscated for many violations, most recently because it was kept in temperatures reaching 30 degrees Celsius (86 Fahrenheit), well above the authorized temperature of 22 degrees (72 Fahrenheit) for wild animals. Lithuania's environment minister called circus owner Nikolai Zobov Wednesday and assured him the circus could keep the bear, named Vipa, as long as conditions improve.

## **Deputies: Alligator bit off piece of patrol car in Louisiana**

MOORINGSPORT, La. (AP)—Sheriff's deputies in Louisiana say an alligator took a bite out of one of their patrol cars. WBRZ-TV reports deputies were called Monday to Louisiana Highway 1 in Caddo Parish after someone spotted the gator in the middle of the road. The sheriff's office says deputies were waiting for wild-life removal experts to arrive when the alligator chomped off a piece of the front bumper. Deputies estimate the alligator was 8 feet (2.4 meters) long. A photo from the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office Facebook page shows the reptile in grass next to what appears to be the black rectangular grill of the car. Authorities say the gator escaped before the wildlife removal experts arrived.

## 2 convicted for tossing horse lubricant and glitter on cops

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Two Oregon protesters have been sentenced to five days in jail for throwing horse lubricant mixed with gold glitter on two police officers at a protest. The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office says the defendants were protesting against a rally organized by a right-wing group called Patriot Prayer when the officers asked to see what was in two 4-gallon (15-liter) buckets they were carrying. Prosecutors say Robert Majure and Tristan Romine-Mann instead sprayed the slimy liquid on the officers and ran. Prosecutors



#### **PHONY LICENSE PLATE**

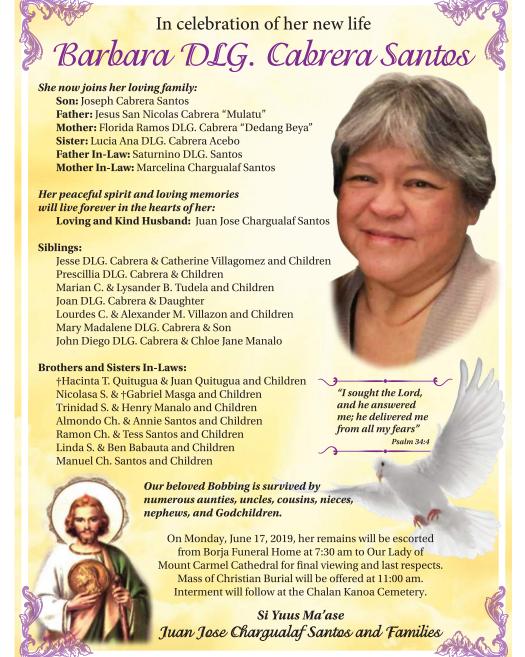
This undated photo provided by the Ventura County Sheriff's Department shows a phony license plate that was spotted by a motorcycle officer on a tractor-trailer in Moorpark, Calif., northwest of Los Angeles. The Ventura County Sheriff's Department said Monday, June 10, 2019, that the driver was arrested and the truck was towed away because it was unsafe.

say the two attempted to "fist bump" in celebration after they were arrested and cuffed in a patrol car. A jury convicted them of harassment and acquitted them of a charge of disorderly conduct. Horse lubricant is a gel used in obstetric and rectal procedures on large animals.

## Father and son warm hearts with gibberish conversation

**CLARKSVILLE, Tenn.** (AP)—One father might not know what his 19-month-old son is saying, but he seems to know what he means. The Leaf Chronicle reports a video show-

ing Tennessee comedian DJ Pryor and his son Kingston has gone viral. The Clarksville child's words are mostly gibberish as the pair talk on the couch. Pryor's wife recorded the moment about a month ago, after they watched the season finale of "Empire." But, she posted the video on Facebook earlier this week and it racked up more than one million views. The father says his son appeared to be inspired by the television show and he simply filled in the blanks with what he thought the boy might be saying. He says he plans to use the conversation in his future stand-up comedy routines.



**24** FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Science & Technology

## Uber tests drone food delivery, launches new autonomous SUV

WASHINGTON (AP)—Uber is testing restaurant food deliveries by drone.

The company's Uber Eats unit began the tests in San Diego with McDonald's and plans to expand to other restaurants later this year.

Uber says the service should decrease food delivery times.

It works this way: Workers at a restaurant load the meal into a drone and it takes off, tracked and guided by a new aerospace management system.

The drone then meets an Uber Eats driver at a drop-off location, and the driver will hand-deliver the meal to the customer

In the future, the company wants to land drones atop parked vehicles near delivery locations and secure them to the vehicle for the final mile of the delivery.

Last year Uber and the city of San Diego won a bid from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration to test food delivery by air.

"We've been working closely with the FAA to ensure that we're meeting requirements and prioritizing safety," Luke Fischer, head of flight operations at Uber Elevate, said in a statement Wednesday.

The company said the knowledge it gains from the tests will help with Uber's planned aerial ride-sharing network.

Also Wednesday, Uber announced that it would work with Volvo Cars to build a vehicle that comes off the assembly line capable of driving autonomously.

The ride-hailing company's self-driving system will be installed in production versions of the Volvo XC90 SUV. The vehicle's steering and braking systems are designed for computer rather than human control, including several backup systems for both steering and braking functions and battery backup power. If the primary systems fail, the backup system will immediately act to bring the car to a stop.

This undated product image provided by Volvo Cars shows the Volvo XC90 SUV. Uber is teaming with Volvo Cars to launch its newest self-driving vehicle. The ride-hailing company said Wednesday, June 12, 2019, that it can easily install its self-driving system in the Volvo XC90 SUV.



## Facebook's Zuckerberg is the focus of latest doctored video

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Three weeks after Facebook refused to remove a doctored video of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi slurring her words, Mark Zuckerberg is getting a taste of his own medicine: fake footage showing him gloating over his one-man domination of the world.

It's the latest flap over deviously altered "deepfake" videos as Facebook and other social media services struggle to stop the spread of misinformation and "fake news" while also respecting free speech and fending off allegations of censorship.

The somewhat crude video

of the Facebook CEO, created as part of an art project and circulated on Facebookowned Instagram over the past few days, combines news footage of Zuckerberg with phony audio.

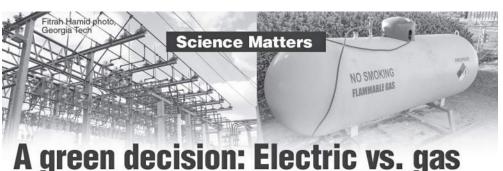
"Imagine this for a second, one man with total control over billions of people's stolen data, all their secrets, their lives, their futures," Zuckerberg seemingly intones in a voice that does not sound very much like Zuckerberg's. "I owe it all to Spectre. Spectre showed me that whoever controls the data controls the future." (Spectre is the evil organization in the James Bond movies.)

The video was created by artists Bill Posters and Daniel Howe with help from artificial intelligence companies and displayed over the past week or so at an art show in Britain on the influence of technology. Posters also put the footage on Instagram and Vimeo.

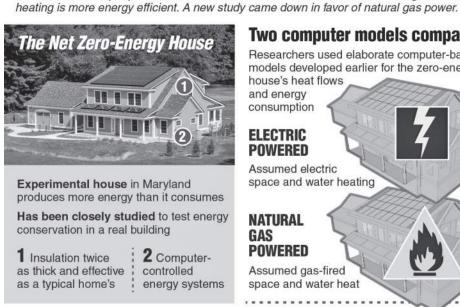
Posters said he targeted Zuck-

erberg as "one person governing control of 2 billion people's personal private data. He's at the center of the debate that asks questions whether that is a safe place for our data to be."

When the Pelosi video turned up on Facebook, the social network said it did not violate any of its policies.



Homeowners and people who rent their homes often wonder whether natural gas or electric



## Two computer models compared

Researchers used elaborate computer-based models developed earlier for the zero-energy house's heat flows and energy consumption ELECTRIC POWERED Assumed electric space and water heating NATURAL GAS POWERED Assumed gas-fired space and water heat

## Why the gas model won out

The analysis compared 960,000 building design and eight economy alternatives over as long as 30 vears

Natural gas heating and cooling cost less for a codecompliant Maryland

home

Electric heating cost less, but has worse environmental impact (pollution from power generating)



That may change as power companies move from polluting coal to cleaner fuels

Source: David Webb of U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology; Journal of Building Engineering; TNS Photos Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

## **TECH Q&A**

## Fix iPhone's wireless printing, audio after installing Windows 10

We have an HP Officejet 4500 printer, and are able to print wirelessly to it from my HP PC and my wife's Mac. But we can't print wirelessly from our two new iPhone XS models because neither of them recognizes the HP printer. Is the printer installed incorrectly, or is it just too old to work with the iPhones?

Your printer, which was introduced in 2010, A can't use the newer wireless printing technology built into the iPhones. But you may be able to wirelessly print using other for-pay iPhone apps.

The HP Officejet 4500 was designed to accept wireless printing requests from PCs and Macs that are on the same Wi-Fi network. But it can't accept printing requests from the iPhone's AirPrint wireless printing software, which works either over a home Wi-Fi network or directly between an iPhone and a printer.

Normally, you would turn to an alternative wireless printing method, such as HP's ePrint service (it e-mails documents to the printer) or Google Cloud Print (it sends cloud-stored documents to the printer.) But the Officejet 4500 is just old enough that it isn't compatible with either of them.

That leaves you with third-party iPhone apps that are designed to wirelessly connect to older printers like yours. They include Printer Pro (\$7) and PrintCentral Pro (\$6), which are available in the Apple App Store.

If you would rather buy another printer, Apple maintains a list of AirPrint-compatible printers from all manufacturers (see tinyurl.com/ou6jobs).

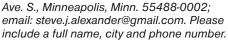
I'm unable to hear any sound when I try to view video clips or listen to music on my Windows 7 PC from HP. When I hover my mouse pointer over the speaker symbol in the PC's task bar, I get the message "No audio output device is installed." What should I do?

HP said the lack of sound is probably caused by the PC's audio software driver.

#### By STEVE ALEXANDER

Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland



Software drivers connect programs to the PC's components, such as the speakers.

For directions on how to fix the problem in Windows 7 (including how to reinstall or replace the audio software driver), go to HP's help page (see tinyurl.com/y47r4xt2). Click 'enable the audio device in Windows 7.'

Some Windows 10 users may be having a similar problem for a different reason: An automatic Windows 10 update accidentally installed the wrong audio software driver on some PCs.

Microsoft has provided an automatic fix for PC owners with a 64-bit version of Windows 10. To get it, download Microsoft software patch number KB4468550 (see tinyurl. com/y6rkyatc). It corrects the error in Windows 10 update 1809 that was introduced last November.

If you have the 32-bit version of Windows 10, or if you prefer to correct the problem yourself, you can manually install the correct audio software driver (see tinyurl.com/y3u25qsb).

If you don't know whether you have the 32bit or 64-bit version of Windows 10 (the main difference is in the way they handle PC memory), open the Control Panel. In the "view by category" drop-down menu, select "large icons." In the resulting menu, click "system" and check the "system type."

FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2019 **25** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Life & Style

# Tessa Thompson is OK with the 'Men in Black' title, for now

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The "Men in Black" franchise has a new recruit who isn't a man, but actress Tessa Thompson is fine with keeping the masculine-centered film title—for now.

Joined by co-star Chris Hemsworth on a black carpet, Thompson shrugged off the gender issue at the world premiere of "Men in Black: International" on Tuesday in New York.

"No, I don't mind," Thompson said.

Thompson cited her costar Emma Thompson, who reprises her role in the series, as a voice of reason when it

comes to gender equality and representation.

"She said something great, like 'I've had the conversation, it takes time.' I think what she's speaking to is the fact that sometimes change happens quicker than we have language to describe it," Thompson said.

#### continues, Thompson has some ideas for a title change. "I pitched some

But if the series

ideas like 'People in Black,' but that would be 'PiB,' which sounds like a sandwich. I

pitched 'Humans in Black,' which would be 'HiB,' which sounds like something you

don't want to get," Thompson said. "I think we can

Thompson

change the name at some point," she added. "I hope we can get to the space where it's not noteworthy when women topline these

this helps us get there."

films, and I think a film like Thompson and Hemsworth

step into the roles Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones made famous. In the sequel, the duo continues to deal with attacks around the world while searching for a mole in the organization. "Men in Black: International" lands in theaters on Friday.

Thompson and Hemsworth had already stablished a kind of playfully combative dynamic in "Thor: Ragnarok."

## Mira Sorvino says she is a 'survivor of date rape'

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—Mira Sorvino revealed Wednesday that she's a survivor of date rape, saying she was talking about it publicly to lend her voice to a push for stronger sexual assault laws in New York.

The Oscar-winning actress, who was one of the first women to accuse the film producer Harvey Weinstein of sexual harassment, choked up during a news conference at the state Capitol with Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

Talking publicly about Weinstein's misconduct, she said, had been traumatic. But she said that she'd also had another, previously undisclosed bad experience with a man she didn't identify.

"I am also a survivor of date rape," she said, her eyes tearing.

Sorvino said she wouldn't go into details, but wanted to disclose the assault to

help others.

"I am doing it here to try and help, because there are all these survivors out there right now who need justice, who need to feel that they can take the time they need to sort through the trauma, to sort through the shame," she said. "Because I can tell you in situations of second degree rape, which is what mine would constitute, you feel ashamed. You feel that somehow it was your fault."

## Lawyer: Cuba Gooding Jr. will turn self in on groping charge

NEW YORK (AP)—Actor Cuba Gooding Jr. will turn himself in to New York City police on Thursday to face al-

legations he groped a woman at a Manhattan night spot, his lawyer said.

Gooding, the Oscar-winning star of "Jerry Maguire" is expected to face a charge stemming from an al-

leged incident over the weekend at Magic Hour Rooftop Bar & Lounge, lawyer Mark Heller said.

A 29-year-old woman told

police Gooding grabbed her breast while he was intoxicated around 11:15 p.m. Sunday. Gooding, 51, denies the al-

legations.

He told TMZ that he was at the bar partying with friends but didn't touch anyone. He said there's a video that shows "what really happened."

Gooding Jr.

"I trust the system and will let the process speak for itself," Gooding said. Gooding will surrender to

the NYPD special victims unit that's leading the inves-

tigation before going to court for an arraignment, Heller said. The lawver expected Gooding to make a statement to the media before getting booked.

Video posted on social media show Gooding at Magic Hour on Sunday night singing the Journey hit "Faithfully" and posing for pictures with fans.

The bar, on the roof of the Moxy Hotel south of Times Square, features a mini-golf course and sweeping views of the Empire State Building and other Big Apple landmarks.



in the Western Hemisphere was on the prowl Wednesday for the first time in nearly 100 years.

Philadelphia's Penn Museum relocated its 3,000-yearold sphinx of Pharaoh Ramses II from the Egypt gallery, where it had resided since 1926, to a featured location in the museum's new entrance hall.

Workers used air dollies to painstakingly maneuver the priceless artifact up a specially constructed ramp and through a series of doorways, windows, sharp turns and tight squeezes, a distance of about 250 feet (76 meters).

The sphinx was as inscrutable as ever throughout. Museum officials, on the other hand, were a little more animated.

"It's been extremely exciting and nerve-wracking, too. I'll sleep a lot better tonight,"



Workers move a 25,000-pound Sphinx of Ramses II at the Penn Museum in Philadelphia, Wednesday, June 12, 2019. The 3,000-year-old sphinx is being relocated from the Egypt Gallery where it's resided since 1926 to a featured location in the museum's new entrance hall.

said director Julian Siggers, adding the sphinx was insured for an "eye-wateringly high figure."

The monument, which was carved out of a single block of red granite and has the head of a man and the body of a lion, was unearthed in 1913 by famed British archaeologist Sir William Matthew Flinders Petrie, whose excavations the museum

funded. It was relocated as part of the museum's extensive, multi-year makeover.

"We needed something very powerful right when you walked into this renovated space, and that is when we said, 'What a shame we can't have the sphinx here. It would be perfect,' Siggers said. "The received wisdom was it was impossible to move."

## Wealthy man's companion is shut out of family holidays

EAR ABBY: I am a platonic friend and part-time caregiver of a wealthy gentleman. I now reside in his residence out of necessity. We respect each other, and neither of us intends to be anything more than friends.

My problem is his family. They know I exist, but refuse to get to know me. They do not allow me to accompany him to holiday events at their homes, even at his request. His sister, the matriarch and a devout Catholic, has been verbally and emotionally abusive to me. My friend believes it's all about his money, and they consider me a threat.

I always feel hurt and rejected on these special occasions. I have no family of my own, and I'm alone on holidays most of the time. How can I overcome this hurtful situation? His nieces and nephews never call him or invite him to dinner in between holidays. Neither of us has children, so he is loyal to his relatives above all else. How do I get past the rejection?

MORE THAN A CAREGIVER

DEAR MORE: Unless your friend has made a point of remembering you in his will. I hope you realize that when he passes, all you will receive from his family is a wave goodbye —if that. The disrespect and lack of empathy "the matriarch" has shown you is shameful. That your friend/ patient lacks the backbone to insist you be included suggests to me that your relationship appears to be a one-way street.

The way to get past this would be to make sure you are

saving enough money (if you haven't) to tide you over until you find a job after his death. In the meantime, allow yourself enough personal time to cultivate relationships with people who won't ignore you during holidays. It's important that you not become more isolated and disconnected than you are. If you are religious, your own church might be a place to start.

DEAR ABBY: My husband is the biggest procrastinator I have ever known. He has piles of things lying around that need his attention and projects that need to be finished but get put off day after day.

When I remind him of what needs doing, he accuses me of nagging, so I have stopped reminding him. But it's boiling inside of me. It has gotten worse since he retired. Also, there are the hours he spends on his iPad.

If I handled things the way he does, nothing would get done, and our house would be a pig pen. I'm frustrated and need some advice on how to handle this without being a nag. I'm ready to go on strike.

BEYOND FRUSTRATED IN OHIO

DEAR BEYOND: What's going on is unfair to you. If this is your husband's pattern, then he needs to know how angry you are about it. That isn't nagging; it is venting. Because he has gotten worse since his retirement, he may need to be seen by his doctor to ensure it isn't caused

## DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



by a health problem.

I'm sorry you didn't mention what kinds of projects your husband is procrastinating about finishing. If they are minor repairs or handyman things, consider hiring someone to finish them. If they are financial, your accountant may be able to recommend someone.

Please consider what I am telling you. The only thing you shouldn't do is continue to tolerate this.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are *included in the price.)* 

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**26** FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2019 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## **Pastimes**

#### Calvin and Hobbes

#### **Garfield**<sub>®</sub> By Bill Waterson

By Jim Davis









## Adam@home

#### By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



8

12

13

14

15 Comedy

razzers

17 Streetcar

19 Poem of

praise

21 Old Ford

model

22 Frenzied

26 Stupefies

29 AAA job

30 Archipel-

ago unit

(Abbr.)

31 Sacred

bird of

Egypt

33 Nile

32 Sushi fish

queen

familiarly 34 Capitol

Hill VIP

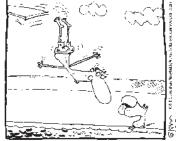
35 Passing

club

18 Attack











CROSSWORD		By Eug	ene Sheffer
ACROSS	36 Sacred	54 Bigfoot's	23 Lean
1 Stetson,	song	cousin	to one

CROSS Stetson,	<b>36</b> Sacred song	<b>54</b> Bigfoot's cousin	23 Lean to one
e.g.	37 Browbeat	55 Surpass	side
Big gulp	39 Indent		24 "Got it"
Miles	key	DOWN	25 Coagula
away	40 Gallery	1 "Funny!"	26 Plate
Boxing	display	2 Hearty	27 " sting
legend	<b>41</b> High-	quaffs	like —"
Galileo's	flying	3 Twitches	28 Galva-
birthplace	battle	4 Divides	nizing
Tubular	45 Rotate	5 Brandish	matter
pasta	48 Large	6 Medit.	29 Media

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7 Hybrid Turner sures 50 Out of fuel 32 Terrestrial 8 Ancient 33 Hooded control **51** "Star Mexican snake 9 Tall tree 35 Supporting Wars" roval

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10 - loss **36** Rum 11 Brink cocktail 16 Curly-38 Armored vehicles leaf cabbages 39 Unspoken

mogul

hopper

49 Shoe

Cross **53** New 20 Morning Mexico 42 Legal document resort moisture 43 Aviation

Solution time: 25 mins. prefix 44 Answer an invite 45 Make lace 46 Hollywood's Thurman 47 Aussie

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Lucy Hale, 30; Kevin McHale, 31; Diablo Cody, 41; Boy George, 58.

Happy Birthday: Think big, but when making a commitment or taking on something new, slow down and take baby steps. Don't feel pressured by what others do or say. Move forward at your own pace, and choose the path that makes you feel comfortable emotionally and financially. Personal gains will be the result of taking care of your needs. Your numbers are 6, 17, 20, 27, 35, 46, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Listen, and you'll discover what you have to do in order to avoid a dispute. It may mean distancing yourself from a situation that has been going sour for way too long. Consider the consequences, and prepare to make your move. 🛇 🔾 🔾

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A change will do you good. Travel, learn and experience all you can. Spend time with people who stimulate you mentally and who bring out the best in you. Make decisions that promote positive change and passion.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Being taken advantage of is apparent if you are too friendly or trying to please everyone around you. Think about what you want and what's best for you. Make decisions that are in your best interest.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Raise awareness to gain the support you need to make a difference to a cause that's important to you. Working in conjunction with someone you care about will make the rewards you achieve that much better. **2000** 

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be careful what you wish for. Mull over your thoughts before you decide to take action. You don't have to go overboard in order to impress someone. Trying to buy love will have an emotional downside that doesn't favor a forever relationship.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Stick to what you know and people who are reliable. Proceed with compassion and the desire to help the underdog, and join forces with people who want to make a difference. What you accomplish will satisfy your soul.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Visit someone who brings and disconnections one who brings out the best in you. A positive change will add to your appeal and make you feel good about the way you look and what you have to offer. Distance yourself from negativity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Make your intentions clear, and take action. Follow your heart and imagination to make your life better. A change that leads to a different environment will be enlightening. Let go

of the past, and live in the moment. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Relationships should be dealt with care-

fully. Listen to what others tell you, but don't take action based on what you hear. Someone will mislead you if given the chance. Be upfront and ask direct questions to avoid emotional manipulation.

**EUGENIA** 

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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tives. OOOO



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): An offer should be looked at carefully. An exaggerated description of what you will receive should be considered a red flag. Read the fine print, and when in doubt, get expert advice. Taking precautions will result in positive alterna-

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It shouldn't matter what others are doing. If something doesn't fit into your schedule, take a pass. Concentrate on what makes you happy, and spend time with the people who offer something in return. Romance will enhance your life. 🗪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Do something that is meaningful, and you will feel good about the contribution you make. You don't have to spend a lot to make a good impression. Kindness and consideration, along with

time and effort, are required. •••• Birthday Baby: You are accommodating, friendly and open-minded. You are genuine and benevolent.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

Conceptis Sudoku

9 5 6 1 8 5 4 9 9 6 3

By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the

same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

#### Yesterday's Answer

3	7	2	5	4	1	8	9	6	
9	8	4	2	7	6	1	3	5	£
6	1	5	9	3	8	2	4	7	1.18
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5	3	7	6	2	9	4	8	1	State Care.

6/14

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9

6

#### WONDERWORD OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY; All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDELEWORD.

CAMBODIAN WEDDINGS YWKLISTIURFRACS

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## Raptors try again to finish off Warriors

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) There was predictable sting that pained the Toronto Raptors after Game 5 of the NBA Finals.

They were so close. And then they had to fly so

Whatever they were feeling after Monday night's loss to Golden State is in the past, which is consistent with the way the Raptors have tried to handle their business throughout playoffs. Game 6 of the title series — one where the Raptors have outplayed the two-time defending champion Warriors — is Thursday night, when Toronto will take a second shot at grabbing its first NBA title.

"The moment is the moment, but we still are staying in it," Raptors guard Kyle Lowry said. "We're not too up, we're not too down. We're just, 'One game, hey, we lost it.' Now we've got to move on to the next one."

The next one —the next chance to win the Larry O'Brien Trophy—has arrived.

Golden State's 106-105 victory in Game 5 sent the series back to Oracle Arena, which the Raptors have basically turned into Jurassic Park West this season. The Raptors are 3-0 on the Warriors' home floor, all three of those wins coming by double digits, two of them in this series.

Thursday is the last NBA game that'll be played at Oracle. The place will be rocking.

The Raptors won't mind whatsoever.

"You've got to be a little more tough-minded on the road," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said. His team has been toughminded everywhere.

Take away Golden State's 18-0 run at Toronto to start the second half of Game 2 a game where the Warriors still needed a final-seconds 3-pointer from Andre Iguo-



dala to close the win out—and a 9-2 run to pull out a dramatic comeback victory for the champs in Game 5, also in Toronto, this series has largely been controlled by the Raptors.

Not many probably expected that to be the case.

Through five games, the Raptors have been outscored in only four of the 20 quarters. They've won every fourth quarter, albeit by small margins. They've struggled guarding Klay Thompsonhe's 20 for 35 from 3-point range in the series—but the rest of the Warriors, Stephen Curry included, are being held to 33 percent from beyond the arc.

And now the Warriors know Kevin Durant's not coming back to help the cause.

"Toronto is tough to guard because they have got a lot of passers and a lot of shooters and they put you in some difficult spots," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "But everybody who came in (Monday) was prepared to play and they were flying around and rotating. We did everything we could to hang in the game on the road and we were able to pull it out. So we know that's what it's going to take here as well."

Raptors coach Nick Nurse, to his credit, hasn't changed his principles much during the playoffs. When his team was down 1-0 to Orlando, down 2-1 to Philadelphia and down 2-0 to Milwaukee, he kept insisting that the score of the series doesn't matter until someone wins four games.

Same rules apply now. Up 3-1, now up 3-2, it's still eyes on the prize-even though the ultimate prize was seconds away from being in hand Monday.

"They all hit you hard," Nurse said. "Listen, I'm like anybody that was there. The outcome of that one changes things a little bit. But I'll say this: I'm absolutely thrilled to be coaching in another finals game. This is awesome."

One last win, and it'll be the most awesome night in Raptors history.

And the missed chance of Game 5 will be forgotten.

"You don't want to dwell on it, you don't want to harp on it, you don't want to let it seep in or leak out or let it drain you, because that can be an emotional blow if you let it," Raptors guard Danny Green said. "But we don't want it to be an emotional blow to our team. We want to stay physically and mentally and emotionally confident and not doubt ourselves and understand that we know we can play better."

## Durant undergoes surgery for ruptured Achilles tendon

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Kevin Durant confirmed what everyone most feared: He underwent surgery for a ruptured right Achilles tendon.

Durant posted on social media Wednesday the severity of his injury two days after getting hurt during Game 5 of the NBA Finals in Toronto in his return from a strained right calf that sidelined him a month.

The 30-year-old posted a photo on Instagram showing himself in a hospital bed and wrote: "I wanted to update you all: I did rupture my Achilles. Surgery was today and it was a success, EASY MONEY."

Just 15 minutes before Durant went public, Warriors coach Steve Kerr said during a finals media availability that he didn't yet have a formal update on Durant. Durant has made his own announcements before, such as writing on The Players' Tribune website about his a teary, emotional general decision to leave Oklahoma manager Bob Myers asked City to join Golden State in July 2016.

The Warriors said later Wednesday that Durant had the surgery at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York, performed by Dr. Martin O'Malley.

Kerr said everyone in the organization is "devastated," including Dr. Rick Celebrini, the team's director of medicine and performance. The Warriors made a "collaborative" decision to clear Durant to play—with the input of Durant and his representative— and had no idea that Durant risked a serious Achilles injury by returning from a strained calf, Kerr said.

"Now, would we go back and do it over again? Damn right," he said. "But that's easy to say after the results. When we gathered all the information, our feeling was the worst thing that could happen would be a re-injure of the calf. That was the advice and the information that we had. At that point, once Kevin was cleared to play, he was comfortable with that, we were comfortable with that. So the Achilles came as a complete shock. I don't know what else to add to that, other than had we known that this was a possibility, that this was even in the realm of possibility, there's no way we ever would have allowed Kevin to come back."

After the game Monday, anyone who was looking to place blame to do so on him-not Durant, the medical staff or athletic trainers who worked so tirelessly to get him back.

Kerr said he also understands people wanting to point blame somewhere, though he noted, "Kevin checked all the boxes, and he was cleared to play by everybody involved," including doctors from within the organization and from the outside.

## Celtics, Lakers talking Davis trade with Pelicans



With the NBA draft approaching next Thursday and the start of free agency weeks away, trade talks for New Orleans Pelicans superstar Anthony Davis

have begun in earnest.

The Los Angeles Lakers and Boston Celtics are actively engaged in discussions with the Pelicans to deal for the three-time All-NBA center who demanded a trade from the team during the season.

According to an ESPN report, the Lakers have discussed using the No. 4 pick in the draft to include a potential third team in the deal so New Orleans can acquire a high-level veteran in a potential deal.

For the most part, none of this comes as a surprise. The Lakers have long coveted Davis and reportedly engaged in contentious talks with the Pelicans about a Davis deal prior to February's in-season trade deadline.

The Lakers are under the gun following a tumultuous season as they look to build a contender around an aging LeBron James.

With top free agents reportedly not considering the Lakers, landing Davis is key to avoiding the disastrous scenario of wasting the back end of James' prime.

The Celtics have also had their sights set on Davis for a

while and could potentially put together the most attractive offer after years of stockpiling young talent and draft picks.

The problem is that Davis isn't interested in Boston. He's long been rumored to be averse to playing there. On Monday, The Athletic reported that Davis had narrowed the list of teams he'd prefer to play for to the Lakers and New York Knicks.

Davis has another year on his deal and will be contractually obligated to play at least one season for whomever deals for him. But his leverage lies in his pending free agency next summer. He can opt to sign a long-term deal with the team that deals for him or bolt after a season in free agency, leaving a team like the Celtics risking parting ways with valuable assets for a one-year rental.

His agent Rich Paul-who is also James' agent and close friend-told Sports Illustrated that that's exactly what will happen if the Celtics for him. They'll get a one-year rental.

"They can trade for him, but it'll be for one year," Paul said. "I mean, if the Celtics traded for Anthony Davis, we would go there and we would abide by our contractual [obligations] and we would go into free agency in 2020. I've stated that to them. But in the event that he decides to walk away and you give away assets? Don't blame Rich Paul."

## Red Sox nip Rangers to snap 3-game skid

(AP)—Mookie Betts watched patiently as four straight pitches missed the strike zone, and the Red Sox averted disaster.

Betts drew a bases-loaded walk from reliever Jesse Chavez in the ninth, giving the Red Sox a 4-3 win over the Texas Rangers on Wednesday and halting Boston's threegame skid.

"I was pretty confident knowing the situation that he had to kind of come to me at that point. He was in trouble," Betts said. "It's huge. It's kind of tough because obviously we didn't want to let them back in the game right there."

Boston rallied against Chavez (2-1) in the ninth after allowing the Rangers to tie it in the eighth on an unearned run.

Andrew Benintendi hit a triple and two doubles, driving in two runs for the Red Sox as they avoided falling below .500 for the first time in more than a month.

Christian Vázquez, whose throwing error in the eighth put the tying run on third, led off the ninth with a groundrule double to center. Jackie Bradley Jr. followed with a single and the Rangers walked Michael Chavis to load the bases for Betts, who fouled off the first pitch he saw from Chavez. The next four pitches were balls, and Marco Hernández, who pinch-ran for Vázquez, trotted home.

"I was just missing by a little bit. I think I was trying to be too fine in that situation where I don't know why I should," said Chavez, whose scoreless streak of 22 2/3 innings came to an end. "Just let them put the ball on the ground and let the defense do the work. Today was a day when I wasn't able to do it in a situation when we needed it, for sure."

## **Brewers 6, Astros 3**

In Milwaukee, the Brewers earned a split of the two-game interleague series by overcoming a dominant effort from the Astros' pitchers, who recorded a club-record 24 strikeouts.

The Brewers' Christian Yelich singled to right to lead off the 14th, and Moustakas went deep off Cionel Perez (1-1) for his 21st homer to snap a 3-3 tie. Yasmani Grandal then doubled and scored on Jesus Aguilar's single.

Before Jake Marisnick stroked a one-out single in the bottom of the 13th, the Astros went eight innings without recording a hit.

#### **Braves 8, Pirates 7,** 11 innings

In Atlanta, Ozzie Albies drove in the winning run on an 11thinning double, giving host the



Braves a victory over Pittsburgh.

Austin Riley, who was hit by a pitch to lead off the inning, came all the way around to score from first base on Albies' double. Michael Feliz (2-3) took the loss, giving up the one run in one-plus inning.

#### Mariners 9, Twins 6, **10** innings

In Minneapolis, Daniel Vogelbach went 4-for-5 with a homer, and Seattle took advantage of three 10th-inning Minnesota errors to score three unearned runs and pull out a victory.

Seattle's Shed Long hit his first major league home run, a three-run drive to cap a fiverun eighth inning. Mallex Smith had three hits, including two doubles, for the Mariners, who won for just the ninth time in their past 32 games.

#### Marlins 9, Cardinals 0

In Miami, Garrett Cooper hit a grand slam and fell a double short of the cycle, and Jordan Yamamoto pitched seven scoreless innings to win his major league debut as the Marlins defeated St. Louis.

The Marlins won the finale

of a three-game series, snapping a six-game losing streak in which they totaled just 10 runs.

#### Diamondbacks 2, Phillies O

In Philadelphia. Merrill Kelly threw 7 2/3 scoreless innings to lift Arizona past the Phillies to earn the series win.

Kelly (7-6) allowed three hits and no runs, struck out five and walked none while throwing 93 pitches, 67 for strikes.

## Tigers 3, Royals 2

In Kansas City, Brandon Dixon's eighth-inning sacrifice fly scored the go-ahead run, and Detroit emerged with a victory.

Jorge Soler, who drove in both of the Royals' runs, flied out to center to end the game with the tying run on base.

Nick Ramirez (3-0) pitched two scoreless innings to pick up the victory.

#### Blue Jays 8, Orioles 6

In Baltimore, Rowdy Tellez hit a grand slam during a sixrun fifth inning as the Toronto Blue Jays defeated the Orioles.

Derek Law opened for the Blue Jays and threw a scoreless inning before Edwin

Boston Red Sox's Xander Bogaerts, right, is tagged out by Texas Rangers first baseman Logan Forsythe, left, after being caught in a rundown during the ninth inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston, Wednesday, June 12, 2019.

Jackson (1-4) earned the victory with five solid innings. Jackson gave up two runs on four hits, striking out two and walking two.

#### Cubs 10, Rockies 1

In Denver, Kyle Schwarber and Javier Baez homered, Cole Hamels pitched seven shutout innings, and Chicago beat Colorado.

Rockies third baseman Nolan Arenado left the game with a left forearm contusion after being hit by a pitch from Hamels in the third inning.

#### Reds 7, Indians 2

In Cleveland, rookie Nick Senzel and Joey Votto homered to open the game as Cincinnati posted a victory over the Indians to salvage a split of their two-game interleague

The back-to-back homers to start the game marked the first time Cincinnati accomplished the feat since Alex Ochoa and Barry Larkin went deep at St. Louis on June 26, 2001.

#### Athletics 6, Rays 2

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Ramon Laureano broke an eighth-inning tie with his first career grand slam, giving Oakland a victory over Tampa Bay in the finale of a three-

Brett Anderson pitched into the seventh inning, and three A's relievers combined for 2 2/3 scoreless innings, allowing Oakland to take two games in the series despite dropping the opener 6-2 on Monday.

Liam Hendriks (3-0), who stranded the bases loaded after Tampa Bay scored twice in the seventh, was credited with the win after recording two outs.

#### Giants 4, Padres 2

In San Francisco, the Giants took advantage of three errors to score three runs, and Kevin Pillar added a home run in a victory over visiting San Diego for a two-game sweep.

Shaun Anderson (2-1) won for the second time in his past three starts, limiting the Padres to two runs and four hits in six innings.

Anderson got the better of Joey Lucchesi (5-4), who pitched well in the second San Francisco Bay Area homecoming of his career but was victimized by a shaky defense. He gave up three runs (two earned) in six innings.

## 6 suspects, including gunman, arrested in Ortiz shooting

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) An alleged gunman and five accomplices have been detained in the shooting of former Red Sox superstar David Ortiz, Dominican officials said Wednesday, while providing group of young men would try to kill their country's most be-

loved sports hero. Four other suspects were also being pursued in the shooting, which witnesses said was carried out by two men on a motorcycle, assisted by two other groups of people in cars.

"At this moment, they are being interrogated and we will continue deepening the investigation to get to the truth about what happened," Chief Prosecutor Jean Alain Rodríguez said.

"Nobody involved in this unfortunate episode will escape justice, neither those who carried it out nor the mastermind," he said.

The national police director, Maj. Gen. Ney Aldrin Bautista no information about why a Almonte, said the coordinator of the attack was offered 400,000 Dominican pesos, or about \$7,800, to orchestrate the shooting. He said the alleged coordinator was also among those in custody.

Rodríguez and Bautista declined to give a motive for the shooting at a popular Santo Domingo bar Sunday night or say who had hired the attackers.

They promised, however, that all those who targeted Ortiz in the baseball-crazy Caribbean country would be brought to justice.

We recognize the symbolism that David Ortiz represents, and we promise that this case will be cleared up completely," Bautista said.

Ortiz is one of the most beloved figures in sports history in the Dominican Republic ton, he visited the Dominican and Boston, a fearsome power hitter with a ready smile. The slugger known as Big Papi led the Red Sox to three World Series championships, was a 10-time All-Star and hit 541 home runs.

The Red Sox retired his number, 34, in 2017—a year after he retired-and Boston renamed a bridge and a stretch of road outside Fenway Park in his honor. He maintains a home in Weston, on the outskirts of Boston.

Ortiz galvanized the city in the aftermath of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing that left three people dead, bellowing through a megaphone at Fenway Park: "This is our (expletive) city!"

While Ortiz lived in Bos-Republic at least six times a year, where he crossed paths with a wide variety of figures from the country's legitimate and illegal business worlds, according to friends.

In a statement, officials said the weapon used, a Browning Hi Power semi-automatic pistol, had been handed to suspect Oliver Moises Mirabal Acosta, then to suspect Porfirio Allende Dechamps Vasquez, AKA The Kid, who buried it in the garden of his home.

## After rescuing putter, McIlroy looks for Open title

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP)-Rory McIlroy arrived at Pebble Beach with an extra wedge in his bag and an extra bounce in his step.

He also brought the putter he used to shoot 61 on Sunday to win the Canadian Open after trading it for a Toronto Raptors jersey, a story all by

"The guy I gave it to was running the golf tournament," McIlroy said. "He knows it's not for him."

Putter safely rescued, Mc-Ilroy is brimming with confidence as the U.S. Open begins for real Thursday. He's got good reason to be after romping to a seven-shot victory in Canada that had him smiling about both his game and his chances to add a second Open title to the one he won in 2011.

After missing the cut in his last three Opens, he can't wait to get going at this one.

"I think the last time I felt this free or felt the way I felt last week probably has to go back to maybe the run at the playoffs in '16," McIlroy said.

after prevailing in their semis

tiff over fellow CNMI players

Isaac Heo and Eugene Park,

6-0, 6-4. The Commonwealth

bets will face familiar players

in the title match, as they will

square off against Deavyn Ets-

cheit and Nolen Narruhn today.

The FSM pair marched into

the finals following a 6-0, 6-0

triumph against the CNMI's

In the girls U14 doubles,

Kim and Elliot are a win away

from getting the division cham-

pionship. The Commonwealth

duo outclassed Palau's Galyah

Mikel and Ngelittle Silmai in

the semis match at the top half

of the draw, 4-6, 7-5, 10-8, to

claim the first finals berth. El-

liot and Kim will battle FSM's

Leila Etscheit and Movida Jer-

ry, who swept Guam's Randi-

ann Atento and Addison in the

other semis game, 6-2, 6-1.

Cory Lee and Jun Wang.

**ALL-CNMI** 

From Page 32



"So it's probably been a couple of years, two, 2 1/2 years."

The results reflect that confidence, at least when it comes to wins. McIlrov has two this year, including The Players Championship, though he failed to contend at the Masters and missed the cut at the Memorial last month.

That missed cut, though, just might have been a blessing in disguise. McIlroy said he used the time he would have spent playing to practice, and discovered enough in his game to turn the Canadian Open into a runaway.

He did it by ditching the 3-iron and going with four wedges in his bag, a move he made with Pebble Beach in mind.

"If I've learned one thing

about the U.S. Open over all these years is your dis-

tance control has to be spot

on," he said. "That was the

reason for putting that extra

land hits out of the bunker on the 10th hole during a practice round for the U.S. Open Championship golf tournament Wednesday, June 12, 2019, in Pebble Beach, Calif.

Rory McIlroy of Northern Ire-

wedge in. And I got a nice bit of practice U.S. OPEN with it last week, and feeling good about the setup.'

For McIlroy, feeling good might be the key to his Open PEBBLE BEACH chances. He's won

four major championshipsincluding the 2011 Open at Congressional—but the last one was five years ago at the PGA Championship.

By this time, most in golf figured he'd have more major titles. But he's been wild at crucial times off the tee, and

has struggled mightily with his putter.

The putting wasn't a problem in Canada, where he shot 22 under in an eye-opening win. The putter might have been, had he not gotten it back after jokingly giving it to the tournament director in ex-

> change for the Raptors jersey.

"He gave me a Raptors jersey, and I gave him my putter and thought he was going to give it to Harry (Diamond, his caddie) up at the scoring

area or whatever," McIlroy said. "And I saw Harry. He goes, Where's your putter? And I said, I better go find it. So, no, I definitely didn't give it away. I know I've done some stupid things in the past, but that would have been right up there."

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Thompson added.

Next month's event is also special for Watanabe, as this will be her World Championships debut after she passed up on a chance to represent the Commonwealth in the 14th FINA World Championships (short course) in China last year.

"The FINA World Championship is the biggest meet out of all the other meets that I have joined. I am really nervous but I will do my best," the Tsunami Saipan swimmer said.

Watanabe, Thompson, Tenorio, and Suzuki will be going to South Korea from Apia, Samoa, as they will also compete in the 2019 Pacific Games that will be held from July 7 to 21. Also on the CNMI National Team that will race in Samoa are Sophia Gauran and David Boyer.

#### **GUAM'S**

From Page 32

goals from Aiyanna Duenas, who found her target in the second and 69th minute.

Duenas also scored in Sidekicks SC's second game last Saturday, helping their team nosed out Shirley's Football Club, 4-3.

It was a come-from-behind victory for Sidekicks, as Shirley's was on top at the break, 3-0. Arif Khan handed Shirley's its first goal in the seventh minute, while Jayvin Bisek made it a 2-0 advantage two minutes later. Bisek drilled another goal in the 30th minute, as Shirley's threatened

to pull away.

However, Sidekicks worked its way back into the match with David De Oro kicking off the squad's comeback bid after lighting up the board in the 42nd minute. Duenas then moved Sidekicks within one with her goal in the 50th minute, while Zachariah Thomas Calvo knotted the count four minutes later. The visitors went on to steal the win from Shirley's with De Oro registering the go-ahead goal in the 68th minute.

Sidekicks had back-to-back games last Saturday, as it returned to the NMITC in the afternoon to face Kanoa FC, the undefeated and champion team

in the U12 division of the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League.

Kanoa lived up to high expectations after dominating Sidekicks, 9-2.

Five different players scored for Kanoa with Paul Lizama leading the way after firing three goals. He got his first goal right in the opening minute of the game and bagged one more in the eighth before closing out for Kanoa in the 63rd.

Tyler Omelau chipped in two goals, while Izeah Jolo, Raymond Dejillas, and Rigel Devey contributed one each, and Kanoa got an own goal. Sidekicks's pair of goals was courtesy of De Oro.



Sean Lee returns to Guam's Jacob San Augustin during a pool play game in the boys U16 singles event in the 2019 North Pacific Regional Championships last Tuesday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts. Lee is in the finals and will face fellow CNMI player

In the girls U16 doubles finals, FSM's Anne Skilling and Ridianne Wolphagen topped the CNMI's Maria Gregoire and their compatriot Isabella Sipos, 7-5, 6-3.

In the boys U14 doubles, it will be FSM versus Palau. George and Thedore Ned of GSM eliminated the CNMI's David Kwon and Anthony Gregoire, 6-4, 6-2, while Palau's Kaekoa Mamis and Ton Perez prevailed over Guam's Aarman Sachdev and Jackson, 3-6, 7-6, 12-10.

#### **CNMI Girls 1 in** contention

Meanwhile, the CNMI Girls

championship in the U12 team event.

Irin Chung and Dana Lee improved to a 4-1 record with one game left in the roundrobin competition following a 3-0 triumph over Guam Girls 2. Chung swept Eliza San Augustin in the first singles game, 6-1, 6-0, while Lee secured the early win for CNMI Girls 1 after topping Amelie Terlaje, 6-3, 6-2. The Commonwealth players then earned the shutout victory after beating the Guam bets anew in the doubles match, 6-3, 6-0.

The CNMI Girls 1 will meet

1 is still in the fight for the Guam Girls 1 today to determine the winner in the division. Guam Girls 1 holds a 5-0 record coming into the deciding match this afternoon.

In the boys division, the CNMI 1 will also play Guam 1 today in an important match. Guam is unbeaten in four games to lead the six-team group, while the CNMI is at close second with its 3-1 mark. FSM 1 also has a 3-1 slate, but the CNMI is ahead in matches won, 8-7, and a win over Guam 1 may hand the host the division crown, depending on the tiebreak points.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sidekicks Soccer Club defenders step into the play to pressure a Kanoa Football Club player during their friendly game last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

## Favorites France, Germany undefeated

**NICE, France** (AP) — Eugenie Le Sommer scored the winning goal from the penalty spot to lift host nation France to a 2-1 win over Norway at the Women's World Cup on Wednesday.

Then she had a special embrace for one of her teammates.

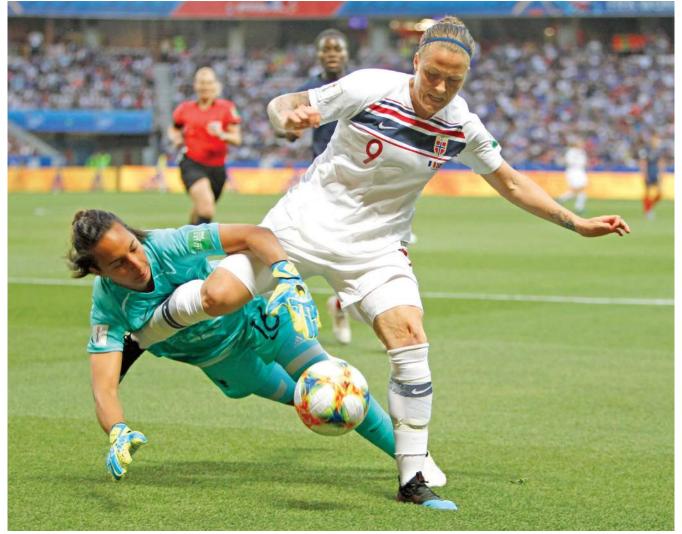
France defender Wendie Renard almost cost France the game when she turned the ball into her own net to even the match at 1-1

Le Sommer came to the rescue and moved France to 2-0 in this tournament when she scored the winner in the 72nd minute. A relieved Renard was one of the first players to celebrate with Le Sommer.

"I knew it was hard for her," Le Sommer said. "I know Wendie well, and I know how much she can give us. She came up to me completely naturally and thanked me and I just said 'No."

"In the first match she scored two goals. What's most important is the group. I'm happy also for her that her mistake was rectified.3

Neither goalkeeper was really tested in an entertaining first half, but France took the lead immediately after the break when Valerie Gauvin tapped in Amel Majri's cross. Gauvin had been benched at later when Renard knocked



the start of France's opening 4-0 win over South Korea, reportedly because she was late to training.

Norway tied it eight minutes

Isabell Herlovsen's low cross into her own net.

Renard, considered one of the best defenders in the world, appeared to be in tears as she raised her face to the sky in anguish.

"I made a huge, huge mistake but we showed our character," Renard said. "Amel was speaking to me but I couldn't really understand what she was saying. So to be safe I went to put it out for a corner but it ended up in the back of the net.

"It could have ruined the night, it could have put us in difficulty mentally but we really showed that we are ready, that we are strong."

Video review was used on Le Sommer's game-winning goal, which stood because a penalty was awarded after a high tackle by Ingrid Syrstad Engen on Marion Torrent.

"I saw the replays from afar and for me there was a contact that deserved the penalty," Le Sommer said. "If it was against us, well I don't know. ... I think the referee made the right decision. In the first match the VAR took away a goal from us, in this match it helped us get one, but what was most important was to win this match and the VAR maybe helped us, but we have to get used to this now in football."

France is three points ahead of Norway in Group A. Nigeria was also three points behind France, which is vying to become the first nation to hold both the men's and women's World Cup titles at

the same time.

"It was a battle for top spot, even though we can't denigrate the last match against Nigeria," Le Sommer said. "It was a very important victory today for our preparation for the rest of the tournament."

Norway, which won the competition in 1995, is playing without Ada Hegerberg. The 2018 FIFA Ballon d'Or winner stepped FRANCE 2019 down from the

national team because of what she says are differences in the way the federation treats the men's and women's teams.

In other results, as Germany clung on for another 1-0 win at the Women's World Cup, Martina Voss-Tecklenburg could sense the unease in her team.

And considerable relief in edging past Spain.

So when the final whistle blew in northern France on Wednesday the coach quickly gathered her players on the field.

"There was some tension," she said. "I told my players we pushed our limits."

The way her side lost possession of the ball still grated. But Voss-Tecklenburg ultimately reminded the squad to be proud and united in the pursuit of a third world title.

The Germans are finding it far from easy going at the start of Group B, relying on Sara Däbritz's goal in the 42nd minute against the run of play to prevail against the skillful Spanish.

"In the last 15 minutes in the

first half," said defender Sara Doorsoun, "we came together and said, 'OK be more selfconfident."

> Däbritz had the confidence to be in the right place to pounce.

After goalkeeper Sandra Paños couldn't keep hold of Alexandra Popp's header, Däbritz got on the end of the loose ball and bundled it into the net.

playing some great football," Spain coach Jorge Vilda said through a translator, "and in the end some mistakes cost us dearly against a strong side."

"We

Until that point, the confident passing, the intensity and much of the verve had been coming from Spain in heavy rain.

"When we got the ball they put a lot of pressure on our defense," Doorsoun said. "It was definitely tough to get the ball."

#### Nigeria 2, South Korea O

Asisat Oshoala became the second Nigerian player to score in two different Women's World Cup tournaments with a late goal in a over South

Chidinma Okeke chipped the ball past the South Korean defense in the 75th minute and Oshoala chased it down, slipped past Hwang Bo-ram and drew the keeper off her line before sliding it into an open goal from a tight angle.

Norway's Isabell Herlovsen, right, and France goalkeeper Sarah Bouhaddi fight for the ball during the Women's World Cup Group A soccer match in Nice, France, Wednesday, June 12, 2019.

Nigeria took a 1-0 lead in the 29th minute at Stade des Alpes when South Korea's Kim Do-yeon volleyed the ball into her own net.

The two own-goals so far in this tournament have both featured Nigeria, which is the first team to both score and concede an own-goal at the same Women's World Cup since the United States in 1999. Osinachi Ohale scored on her own team in Nigeria's opening Group A loss to Norway.

#### **Brazil unsure if Marta** will play vs Australia

Brazil played coy on the status of star player Marta ahead of its Women's World Cup match against Australia, a team reeling from a firstround upset and unsure if it will face the six-time FIFA Player of the Year.

Marta did not play in Brazil's opening game against Jamaica because of a left thigh injury, but the forward has been transitioned from medical treatment to training. She got in two days of practice ahead of Thursday's Group C game at Stade de la Mosson in Montpellier.

"Marta went back to training, we are still going to have a meeting to see how she feels and make a decision," said Brazil coach Vadao. "We've increased the training bit by bit until we have certainty. We are going through the motions with Marta.

"Will she be in the pitch? Probably. But we haven't had a chance to make a decision vet."

Even without Marta, Brazil rolled to a 3-0 opening game win over Jamaica to end a nine-game losing streak. Cristiane became the oldest player to notch a hat-trick at the World Cup when the 34-year-old striker scored on a header, a tap-in and a free-kick.

She claimed the record from Cristiano Ronaldo, who was 33 when he scored a hat-trick for Portugal against Spain in last year's World Cup.

Australia, meanwhile, is trying to regroup after its upset loss to Italy in its opening game. Italy surprised the Matildas with a goal in stoppage time and coach Ante Milicic is under pressure against Brazil.

"Whether we are favorites or underdogs does not concern me," Milicic said.

## Ibrahimovic sets salary record at \$7.2 million

BETHESDA, Md. (AP)— LA Galaxy forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic is earning a Major League Soccerrecord \$7.2 million salary this season.

The 37-year-old Ibrahimovic, who 🌡 earned a relatively modest \$1.5 million last year, broke the MLS previous mark of To-

ronto's Sebastian Giovinco, who had \$7,115,556 in total compensation in both 2017 and 2018.

The MLS Players Association said Wednesday the average base salary for all players this year is \$376,174 and the average guaranteed compensation is \$417,643, including a prorated share of guaranteed money not attributable to a specific year. The average salary for senior roster non-designated players increased 13.3% to \$345,867 and is up from \$138.140 in 2014.

Striker Giovani dos Santos, released by the Galaxy in March, is second with a base salary of \$4.75 million and total compensation of \$6.5 million.

Toronto midfielder Michael Bradley (\$6 million \$6,428,571 total) base, is third, followed by Toronto striker Jozy Altidore (\$4,891,250, \$6,332,250),

LAFC forward Carlos Vela (\$4.5 million base, \$6.3 million total), Chicago midfield Bastian Schweinsteiger (\$5.6

million base and total), Montreal winger Ignacio Piatti (\$530,000, \$4,443,333), Toronto midfielder Alejandro Pozuelo (\$3.8 million), DC United forward Wayne Rooney (\$3.5 million, \$3,507,500), Atlanta forward Josef Martínez (\$3 million, \$3,058,333), Seattle forward Nicolás Lodeiro (\$2 million, \$2,502,500), Orlando midfielder Nani (\$2,333333, \$2,486,250) and Colorado goalkeeper Tim Howard (\$2 million, \$2,475,000).

The minimum salary for each team's 18-20 senior players rose to \$70,250 this season and the minimum for its maximum eight reserve players increased to \$56,250. This is the final season of a five-year labor contract.



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Raptors try again to finish off **Warriors** 

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**Favorites** France, Germany undefeated

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# All-CNMI title showdown

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER

he boys U16 singles title match in the 2019 North Pacific Regional Championships will be an all-CNMI duel, as Sean Lee and Sam Ryu advanced to the finals after eliminating their semis opponents.

Lee, who is seeded No. 1 in the 10-player field, booked the first finals ticket in the division after sweeping the unranked No-

len Narruhn of the Federated States of Micronesia, 6-0, 6-1, yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club tennis courts. Ryu, the No. 2 seed in the competition, also needed only two sets to beat another FSM bet—the

No. 4 Deavyn Etscheit—6-2, 6-4, and assure the CNMI Top 2 finish in the division. Ryu and Lee will battle for the champion-

ship today at PIC's hard court. Meanwhile, two more CNMI players made it to the finals of their respective sin-

gles event. In the boys U14 singles, No. 2 seed Daniel Kang earned a

slot to the championship game after surviving No. 4 Jacob Jackson of Guam. Kang eked out a 7-5 win in the first set, while Jackson avoided early elimination with a victory in the second in similar scores. Then in the deciding supertiebreaker third set, the CNMI and Guam bets still went back and forth before Kang escaped with an 11-9 triumph.

With the victory, Kang arranged a title showdown against No. 1 seed and FSM player Jones George, who foiled an all-CNMI finale in the boys U14 singles after ousting David Kwon in the other semis match, 6-2, 6-4.

In the girls U14 singles, No. 4 Helen Kim extended her streak to five and reached the finals after beating No. 3 Leila Etscheit of FSM, 6-4, 6-2. Kim's foe in the championship game today is Guam's Alicia Addison, who stunned No. 1 seed Hyejin Elliot, 6-0, 6-3, in the other Final Four game.

In other results, Ryu and Lee will also play in the finals of the boys U16 doubles

See ALL-CNMI on Page 30

ROSELYN B. MONROYO The CNMI's Hoo Wang serves to Guam's Jaylee Usita-Lee during the first singles game in the U12 team event in the 2019 North Pacific Regional Championships yesterday at the American Memorial Park

tennis courts.



## Guam's Sidekick SC battle 3 Saipan teams

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Sidekick Soccer Club challenged three teams in a series of friendly matches over the weekend at NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The visiting squad from Guam first played against TanHoldings FC U12 last

Friday with the latter cruising to a 6-2 win. Jonne Navarro had a hat trick in TanHoldings' victory, making them in succession in the Northern Mariana Islands Second half. Mark Costales added a

#### By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club's Jinju Thompson and Lennosuke Suzuki and Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan's Juhn Tenorio and Aika Watanabe were selected to represent the CNMI in the 18th FINA World Championships in South Korea.

The long course event will run from July 12 to 28 with the swimming races to be held from July 21 to 28 at the South Korea Nambu University Municipal Aquatics Center in Gwangju.

The tournament is Thompson's third world championship appearance and the most special, as it will take place in her mother's home country.

"I'm very honored as al-

Football Association pair in the first half, while Monico Claridades delivered the other goal for the winning squad. Sidekicks drew its two See GUAM'S on Page 30

## 4 swimmers off to World Championships

ways to have been selected. This is a special competition to me not just because it's my third world championships but also because it is in Korea, which is my mom's home country," the 16-yearold swimmer said.

"I have been looking forward to this specific world championships since I was younger. Knowing that it's going to be in Korea and having my family there to support me has been the motivation for my training these past few months," Thompson added.

The competition in South Korea will come at a time that CNMI swimming is experiencing challenges, as the 50-meter Kan Pacific



**SUZUKI** 

Swimming Pool is still closed. Howing to go through trying times, Thompson is sticking to the positives.



**TENORIO** 

ever, despite hav- GWANGJU 2019, is just take advanrına WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



the pool it has been difficult for this swim meet to work on face sprints so I'm looking forward to just focustage of the opportuing on my strokes and mechanics and time-wise being nity to race which I within my best time pace,' haven't gotten in a long time. Without she said.



WATANABE

"We have a really good team going this year, with mostly sprinters so I can't wait to cheer them on in the fast and exciting races,"

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